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## Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety

### Introduction to the Project

The Government of India has committed to developing and deploying agricultural biotechnology to meet the needs of farmers, rural communities, and growing urban populations. To advance this goal, there is a need to ensure robust institutional governance for the risk assessment of biotechnology applications to fulfill national obligations and international commitments.

*At the request of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, the ILSI Research Foundation provided significant technical support under the risk assessment and risk management component of the Phase-II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety.*

### International Partners

With leadership from MoEF&CC, the Phase II project worked to build capacity in human and infrastructure resources for improved biosafety management,



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to meet national challenges and goals consistent with India's national and global commitments, including the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the National Biotechnology Development Strategy, the National Environment Policy, and the Cartagena Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity, amongst others. Specific project objectives were to: strengthen the biosafety management system in India with special emphasis on risk assessment and management; handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs); socioeconomic considerations, and public awareness, to ensure that adequate protection of human health and biodiversity from potential harms that might arise from LMO-related activities. The ILSI Research Foundation provided the technical expertise and experience that was necessary to address the project objectives related to risk assessment and risk management, and its contributions to the Phase II project resulted in numerous impactful capacity building activities and project outputs.

## Activities and Outcomes



**Guidelines** for Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants, 2016



Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants: **A Guide for Stakeholders**, 2016



**Risk Analysis Framework**, 2016



**Workshops** on problem formulation and other aspects of environmental risk assessment



**Survey** of the pipeline of genetically engineered crops in development in India



Comprehensive set of **resource documents**, including eight crop-specific biology documents



**Training materials** related to environmental risk assessment



**Study tour** to share learnings with the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator in Australia

*Effective collaboration and technical capacity building resulted in the publication of three documents that will greatly enhance the transparency of the regulatory process in India.*

## Reasons for Success

The risk assessment and risk management component of the Phase II project was highly successful, a result of an open, collaborative and productive partnership between MoEF&CC, the ILSI Research Foundation, and many Indian and international scientists who generously gave of their time and expertise. Pivotal to this was the development of a multi-year, implementation plan that was re-visited and refined over the life of the project to ensure that progress and learnings were incorporated in real time.

## About the ILSI Research Foundation

*Bringing scientists together to improve environmental sustainability and human health*

The ILSI Research Foundation is a non-profit organization that advances and disseminates science for public benefit. We convene scientists from public, private and academic sectors to address scientific issues that are relevant to human health and environmental sustainability. Learn more about our research, capacity building, educational and outreach efforts by visiting [www.ilsirf.org](http://www.ilsirf.org) or contacting [rf@ilsirf.org](mailto:rf@ilsirf.org).