

South Asia Biosafety Program

NEWSLETTER FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY – NOT FOR SALE



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INDIA

Third Capacity Building Workshop on Safety Assessment of Foods and Feeds Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants in New Delhi

Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Chair, Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms and Foods, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)



Dr. Dinesh Kumar speaking at the Third Capacity Building Workshop on Safety Assessment of Foods and Feeds Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants (20 August 2025).

The “Third Capacity Building Workshop on Safety Assessment of Foods and Feeds Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants” was held on 20-22 August 2025 at The LaLiT in New Delhi. The workshop was jointly organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Agriculture and Food Systems Institute (AFSI), Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), and South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP). The workshop was a continuation of the first and second workshop organized on the same topic in September 2023 and June 2025. The objective of the workshop was to provide a deeper understanding of the safety assessment process through hands-on-training for selected participants. The training was based on India’s guidelines for genetically modified (GM) food safety assessment and aimed to strengthen the capacities of technical officers.

Presentations, followed by breakout group exercises, covered key topics, viz., the history of safe use, molecular characterization and expressed products, potential toxicity and allergenicity assessment, and compositional analysis. Additionally, the training covered the

transportability of data and internet resources for food and feed safety assessment. Participants were given a case study to analyze throughout the workshop and prepared a safety assessment summary. The event was attended by 30 participants that included technical officers of FSSAI, members of regulatory committees, and resource persons.

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, BCIL Chief General Manager, welcomed the speakers and participants and stated the objective of the workshop, which was to discuss methodologies for the safety assessment process in detail and correlate the framework with the Indian Council of Medical Research’s “Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants.”

The training was based on India’s guidelines for genetically modified (GM) food safety assessment and aimed to strengthen the capacities of technical officers.

LINK

Access the Agenda and Speaker Bios at:
<https://foodsystems.org/event/ge-plants-safety-assessment-fssai-08-2025/>

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Dr. Vibha Ahuja speaking at the workshop (20 August 2025).

Dr. Bhavneet Bajaj, Senior Manager–Scientific Programs for AFSI, shared key learnings and feedback from the two earlier workshops and presented the workshop agenda. Delivering the opening remarks, Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Chair of the FSSAI Scientific Panel on GM Foods, spoke about the extensive efforts by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions on the development and testing of GM crops. He also spoke about the release of two gene-edited rice varieties. He expressed his appreciation for the capacity building efforts by FSSAI, AFSI, and BCIL and stressed the need for continued engagement with stakeholders.

The first presentation by Dr. Flerida A. Carino, Consultant, Philippines Food and Drug Administration and former Professor of Biochemistry, University of the Philippines-Diliman, focused on key concepts for the safety assessment of genetically engineered (GE) plants. She explained the comparative approach followed in the case of GE foods, wherein GE foods can be compared with traditional counterparts that have an established history of safe use (HOSU). Dr. Vibha Ahuja walked through the ICMR Guidelines and informed participants that these guidelines are aligned with the guidelines and principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2003). She elaborated on the framework for safety considerations and informed participants about the “Protocols for Food and Feed Safety Assessment of GE crops” that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) developed for conducting safety assessment studies.

Dr. Vibha Ahuja walked through the ICMR Guidelines and informed participants that these guidelines are aligned with the guidelines and principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2003).



Participants at the workshop (20 August 2025).

Sharing an overview of the global status of GE plants, Dr. Bhavneet Bajaj informed participants that presently, 27 countries around the world grow GE crops, which often represent a substantial portion of the cropping area. She stated that no countries have conducted and published a food safety assessment for foods derived from any GE crop with a determination that they are not as safe as their conventional counterpart. She indicated that as countries finalize their regulatory pathways for genome editing, they are moving toward a global consensus. The presentations on Day 1 also covered topics, viz., host and donor organisms, compositional considerations, and molecular characterization.

On Day 2, technical presentations focused on the assessment of possible toxicity, allergenicity, and the transportability of data for safety assessment of GM plants, followed by hands-on exercises where each of these topics were dealt with in detail. Dr. Andrew F. Roberts, AFSI's Chief Executive Officer, delivered a virtual presentation on animal feeding studies in the context of GE food/feed safety assessments.

On Day 3, Dr. Bajaj discussed AFSI's Crop Composition Database (CCDB), as well as other internet resources for food safety assessment, and Dr. Ahuja and Dr. Carino apprised the participants about the “Risk Assessment Summary Report”—a format for assessors to report the results of their assessment to decision-makers and the public.

The workshop was well received and the sessions equipped participants with practical insights and confidence to apply key principles of safety assessment of foods and feeds derived from GE plants.



Participants at the workshop (20 August 2025).



Participants at the workshop (20 August 2025).

Turning Waste into Wealth: Harnessing the Power of the Black Soldier Fly in Sri Lanka

Dr. R. M. T. B. Ranathunge, Eastern University

Sri Lanka, like many South Asian countries, faces a growing challenge in managing municipal solid waste. A large portion of this waste—nearly 60%—is organic material, such as food scraps, market waste, and agricultural residues. Traditional waste management approaches, such as open dumping and landfilling, not only consume valuable land resources but also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, foul odors, and public health hazards.

An innovative and eco-friendly solution has been gaining global attention: the use of the Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*). This insect, though harmless to humans, has a remarkable ability to consume large amounts of organic waste, converting it into two valuable products—protein-rich larvae and organic compost.

The Black Soldier Fly larvae (BSFL) are voracious feeders, capable of reducing organic waste by up to 70% in just a few days.

HOW IT WORKS

The Black Soldier Fly larvae (BSFL) are voracious feeders, capable of reducing organic waste by up to 70% in just a few days. The larvae can then be harvested and processed into:

- A sustainable, protein-rich substitute for fishmeal and soybean meal in poultry and aquaculture for animal feed.
- Biofertilizer/compost with nutrient-rich residue that improves soil fertility and reduces reliance on chemical fertilizers.

BENEFITS FOR SRI LANKA

Adopting BSF-based waste management in Sri Lanka brings multiple benefits:

- A practical solution for municipal councils struggling with daily organic waste disposal.
- Potential income generation from selling larvae-based animal feed and organic compost.
- Reduction in methane emissions from landfills, contributing to climate change mitigation.
- Minimizing breeding grounds for disease vectors like houseflies and mosquitoes by reducing open waste.

For South Asia, where rapid urbanization and population growth are increasing waste generation, the Black Soldier Fly approach aligns well with the Biosafety and Sustainable Development goals. It provides a safe, low-cost, and scalable technology that supports circular economy practices, enhances food

security, and creates green jobs.

Pilot projects in Sri Lanka could begin with urban councils in Colombo and Kandy, where organic waste is abundant. The Eastern University in Sri Lanka, together with private sector partners and government agencies, is preparing to initiate this program and gradually scale it up. Through strong partnerships, proper biosafety measures, and community awareness campaigns, BSF technology can transform waste management into a sustainable and economically beneficial solution for the country.

As Sri Lanka strives toward a greener future, the Black Soldier Fly offers a promising path—turning today's waste problems into tomorrow's resources.

Guidelines on Genetically Engineered Plants Containing Stacked Events, 2025

Dr. Arlene Asthana Ali, Senior Project Executive, Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL)

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) notified the "Guidelines on Genetically Engineered Plants Containing Stacked Events, 2025" via O.M. (File No. PID-15011(11)/2/2022/-PPB-DBT) dated 21 July 2025. These guidelines provide a comprehensive roadmap for the development and sustainable utilization of genetically engineered (GE) plants containing stacked events, outlining specific biosafety considerations, and delineating regulatory pathways to ensure safe and responsible innovation. These guidelines will supplement earlier guidelines and standard operating procedures notified by DBT and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) pertaining to GE plants. These guidelines shall be applicable to all public and private organizations involved in the research and development of the GE plants containing stacked events.

The guidelines outline the data requirements for the biosafety assessment of stacked GE plants harboring two or more events generated either through the conventional breeding method and/or through direct genetic transformation. Separate approaches of biosafety assessment are outlined for stacks developed through genetic transformation and through breeding. In the case of breeding stacks, procedures are specified for stacks involving parental events that are approved, unapproved, or partly approved in India, and data portability for stacked GE plants expressing some or all events approved outside of India.

Access the Guidelines on Genetically Engineered Plants Containing Stacked Events, 2025 at:

https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/Content/FlashPDF/20250826102147288_Guidelines%20on%20Stacked%20GE%20Plants%202025.pdf



Guidelines on Genetically Engineered Plants Containing Stacked Events 2025



Brainstorming Workshop on Biotech Intervention in Maize: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, Biotech Consortium India Limited



Speakers and participants at the Brainstorming Workshop on Biotech Intervention in Maize: Challenges and Opportunities (1 September 2025).

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR) and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) jointly organized the "Brainstorming Workshop on Biotech Intervention in Maize: Challenges and Opportunities" on 1 September 2025 in Ludhiana, Punjab. About 80 participants attended the workshop, which included scientists, researchers, and students from ICAR-IIMR, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (ICAR-CIPHET), along with representatives from the seed, feed, and fuel industries.

The workshop started with a welcome address by Dr. Mehak Sethi, Women Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, and a brief introduction on the background and objectives of the workshop by Dr. Vibha Ahuja, BCIL Chief General Manager.

Dr. H. S. Jat, ICAR-IIMR Director, spoke about the importance of maize in the current scenario and, in particular, increased demand from the ethanol sector, driven largely by blending initiatives since 2012. He noted that India's maize productivity remains below the global average, posing a challenge to achieving the 30% blending target. He emphasized the need to bridge yield gaps through better management practices and varietal improvement in line with the goals of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. He also pointed out the importance of public-private collaboration to enhance maize production and farmer incomes, and stressed that research on new technologies should face no barriers. He mentioned research efforts underway at the ICAR-IIMR for developing gene edited maize varieties and field trials of GM maize underway at PAU.

Dr. Ajmer Singh Dhatt, PAU Director of Research and chief guest of the workshop, emphasized the importance of adopting modern biotechnology techniques, viz., genetic engineering and gene editing, to compete with global productivity standards. He highlighted maize as a water-efficient crop for Punjab, and noted that wider adoption by

farmers will depend on assured higher yields and returns. He added that integrating biotechnology into conventional breeding could enhance breeding efficiency, contribute to 10-15% yield improvement, and provide benefits across the maize value chain.

Dr. Rajvir Rath, Director-Agricultural Affairs & Policy (South Asia) at Bayer Crop Science, indicated that climate variability, pest pressures, and stagnating yields pose challenges and vulnerabilities for maize farmers and emphasized the role of genetic engineering and gene editing for the production of drought-tolerant, pest-resistant, and nutritionally enriched maize varieties to stabilize incomes and production costs. He stressed

that the use of modern biotechnology tools would help address yield gaps, strengthen resilience, and ensure farmer prosperity.

In the technical session, two presentations were made to set the context for further discussions: (1) "Prospects of Genetic Engineering and Gene Editing in maize improvement" by Dr. Krishan Kumar, Scientist, Agricultural Biotechnology, ICAR-IIMR Delhi Unit, and (2) "Emerging Regulatory Policies for Agrobiotechnology: An Overview" by Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, BCIL.

Dr. Krishan Kumar informed participants that confined field trials of GM maize have been permitted by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), with one trial underway at PAU. He also shared progress in maize genome editing and informed participants that institutions including IIMR, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), and PAU are working on developing gene edited maize using CRISPR technology. Dr. Vibha Ahuja explained the regulatory mechanisms in place to address biosafety concerns related to GM crops in detail. She also informed participants that SDN-1 and SDN-2 categories of gene edited plants have been exempted from the applicable biosafety regulations once confirmed free of exogenously introduced DNA. She informed participants that the Government of India

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Group photo of participants at the workshop (1 September 2025).

has taken enabling policy measures since 2022, and two gene edited rice varieties were released in May 2025.

Dr. Alla Singh, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, moderated a panel discussion with scientists and experts from the public and private sectors. The panelists included Dr. N.K. Singh, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology (GBPUAT), Dr. Nandita Limbu, Corn Breeder, Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Uday Shetty, Senior Corn Breeder, Advanta India Limited, Dr. Pranjal Yadava, Senior Scientist, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Dr. Yogesh

Vikal, Principal Molecular Geneticist, PAU, and Dr. Gulshan Singh Rana, Head–Market Development and Commercial Capability-IBSL, Bayer Crop Science.

Experts concluded with a strong consensus that India must accelerate the responsible adoption of biotechnology in maize to remain competitive globally.

Following detailed deliberations, experts concluded with a strong consensus that India must accelerate the responsible adoption of biotechnology in maize to remain competitive globally. As India aspires to be a global agricultural leader, experts emphasized that biotechnology in maize is not an option, but a necessity for securing productivity, resilience, and prosperity in the decades ahead.



Participants at the workshop (1 September 2025).

Publication and Launch of the Report on Potential Impacts of Allowing Genetically Modified Maize Production and Imports in India

Dr. Arlene Asthana Ali, Senior Project Executive, Biotech Consortium India Limited



Speakers at the launch event for AbacusBio's report on Potential Impacts of Allowing Genetically Modified Maize Production and Imports in India (22 July 2025).

Maize is India's third-largest cereal crop, following rice and wheat, with the country ranking fourth globally in both the area under cultivation and total production. Yet, India lags significantly behind global productivity benchmarks. Meanwhile, demand for maize in the country has surged, with an increasing share of domestic output diverted toward fuel ethanol production. This shift has strained supply for traditional sectors, such as animal feed and starch, raising concerns about the long-term stability of domestic supply chains.

AbacusBio, a scientific and business advisory firm, prepared a report on the *Potential Impacts of Allowing Genetically Modified Maize Production and Imports in India*. The report analyzed the current and projected maize production and consumption scenario in India and the adoption of genetically modified (GM) maize globally. While GM crops like soybean, maize, cotton, and canola are widely cultivated worldwide, Bt cotton remains the only GM crop commercially permitted in India since 2002. Despite scientific advancements, other GM crops, such as brinjal and mustard, have been stalled by regulatory and public resistance.

It has been recommended that allowing the domestic cultivation of GM maize and lifting restrictions on GM maize imports is needed to meet the projected demand for maize in India. The report also highlights how such interventions could enhance crop productivity, stabilize prices, and deliver tangible economic benefits for farmers and allied sectors. The report advocates for a transparent, evidence-based review of GM maize in India. It emphasizes the importance of balancing innovation with precaution and encourages informed policymaking that supports food security, sustainability, and environmental protection.

The Asia Group supported the launch of the report on 22 July 2025 in New Delhi, at Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre. Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) delivered the keynote address. The report's release was accompanied by a high-level panel discussion moderated by Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager of Biotech Consortium India Limited, on "Building a Resilient Maize Economy in India," which brought together influential voices across the agri-tech value chain, including senior industry leaders, academic experts, and farmer representatives. The discussion focused on the strategic role of maize in India's evolving agricultural landscape and trade frameworks, particularly in the context of rising demand for feed and fuel security.

Following the New Delhi launch event, two roundtable sessions were held—at the Hyatt in Pune on 23 July and at the Courtyard by Marriott

in Hyderabad on 24 July. During these events, the authors of the report presented key insights and findings, setting the stage for expert panel discussions that offered a range of perspectives on the opportunities, challenges, and considerations surrounding the adoption of GM maize in India. These sessions facilitated more in-depth, localized engagement and dialogue, enabling stakeholders to exchange views on how GM maize could contribute to strengthening India's maize economy while balancing concerns around biosafety, regulation, and market access.

RESOURCE



Access AbacusBio's Report on Potential Impacts of Allowing Genetically Modified Maize Production and Imports in India at:

<https://abacusbio.com/report-gm-maize-production-and-imports-india/>

Fourth Training on “Biosecurity and Biosafety: Diagnostics, Phytosanitary Treatments and Issues” by ICAR-NBPGR

Dr. V. Celia Chalam, Head, Division of Plant Quarantine, ICAR-NBPGR

The training on “Biosecurity and Biosafety: Diagnostics, Phytosanitary Treatments and Issues” was organized virtually on 19-28 August 2025 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR) under the project “National Programme for Quarantine and GM Diagnostics of Genetically Engineered Plant Material,” which is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and operational at ICAR-NBPGR. The participants included plant quarantine officials from the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S), researchers from ICAR institutes, private industry, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), other universities, Central Silk Board (CSB), Coffee Board, and International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)–India.

The training course was attended by 93 participants from different parts of the country: 14 from ICAR institutes, 26 from SAUs and other universities, 21 from the private sector, 27 from DPPQ&S, two from CSB, two from the Coffee Board, and one from ICARDA. The training started on 19 August 2025. Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR gave an overview of plant genetic resources (PGR) management at ICAR-NBPGR. Dr. V. Celia Chalam, Head, Division of Plant Quarantine, gave overview of the training.

The training was conducted by 18 in-house faculty from ICAR-NBPGR, belonging to the Division of Plant Quarantine, Division of Genomic Resources, Germplasm Exchange & Policy Unit, and NBPGR Regional Station Hyderabad Telangana, as well as 14 guest faculty from DPPQ&S, DBT, BCIL, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)/Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), ICAR National Research Institute for Integrated Pest Management (NRIIPM), the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (BRIC-NABI), Mahyco, Corteva, and Syngenta, who delivered informative lectures on various aspects related to biosecurity and biosafety.

The course curriculum included both lectures and practical exercises conducted through videos to give the participants a good idea of various techniques used for diagnostics of different pests and

The course curriculum included both lectures and practical exercises conducted through videos to give the participants a good idea of various techniques used for diagnostics of different pests and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), phytosanitary treatments, and both national and international regulatory frameworks.

genetically modified organisms (GMOs), phytosanitary treatments, and both national and international regulatory frameworks. Three virtual visits were conducted, to the National Containment/Quarantine Facility for Transgenic Planting Material and GM Detection Research Facility at ICAR-NBPGR and the National Phytotron Facility at ICAR-IARI. The topics covered included: biosecurity and biosafety–concepts and international framework; national plant quarantine set-up for bulk imports; exchange procedures for germplasm including transgenics; detection and identification of insects, mites, plant pathogenic fungi, bacteria, viruses, phytoplasma, nematodes and weeds in quarantine; phytosanitary treatments for disinfestation and disinfection; post-entry quarantine regulations in India; pest risk analysis: concepts and methodology; status of agricultural biotechnology in India; biosafety regulatory framework for GE plants; Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and risk assessment for GMOs/LMOs, including laboratory practices for GMOs; biosafety issues and concerns related to field trials/release of GM crops; policy issues related to new emerging technologies, viz., CRISPR; case studies on gene editing of rice and banana; surveillance and diagnosis of Fusarium wilt TR 4 of banana; DNA-based diagnostics of GMOs and information sharing and

cultural biotechnology in India; biosafety regulatory framework for GE plants; Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and risk assessment for GMOs/LMOs, including laboratory practices for GMOs; biosafety issues and concerns related to field trials/release of GM crops; policy issues related to new emerging technologies, viz., CRISPR; case studies on gene editing of rice and banana; surveillance and diagnosis of Fusarium wilt TR 4 of banana; DNA-based diagnostics of GMOs and information sharing and

biosafety clearing house mechanism; management practices for containment facility/green house and plant quarantine issues from the industry perspective.

The trainees were given both pre-training and post training evaluation quizzes and substantial improvement in their knowledge after training was observed. The training concluded with a Valedictory Session, during which Dr. R.K. Gautam, Head, Division of Germplasm Evaluation, ICAR-NBPGR, addressed the participants and distributed certificates. In his address, Dr. R.K. Gautam emphasized the importance of such trainings and their role in generating awareness among stakeholders. The Course Director, Dr. V. Celia Chalam, Head of the Division of Plant Quarantine, discussed the training program, and the trainees provided feedback on the training. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jameel Akhtar, Principal Scientist, Division of Plant Quarantine.



Screenshots from the ICAR-NBPGR training on Biosecurity and Biosafety: Diagnostics, Phytosanitary Treatments and Issues (19-28 August 2025).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	ORGANIZED BY	DATE	WEBSITE
INDIA			
National Conference on Advances in Climate-Conscious Crop Science: Genetics, Genomics, and Breeding	Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru and University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	4-6 October 2025 Bengaluru	https://www.uasbangalore.edu.in/en/home/
Symposium on Enhancing Functionality of Crops & Improving Nutrition Status Through Gene Editing	ILSI India Knowledge Center on Functional Foods, Gut Health, and Immunity (K-FFIG)	11 October 2025 New Delhi	https://www.ilsa-india.org/kffig.htm
7 th South Asian Biotechnology Conference	South Asian University and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB)	29-31 October 2025 New Delhi	https://sabc.sau.ac.in https://www.icgeb.org/south-asian-biotechnology-conference-india-2025/
Short-term Hands-on Training Program on Recent Advances in Mutation Breeding for Crop Improvement	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Assam Agricultural University (AAU)	10-19 November 2025 Jorhat	https://www.aau.ac.in/
21 st Biennial International Conference on Global Resilience in Animal Nutrition: Innovations for Sustainable Future	Animal Nutrition Society of India	19-21 November 2025 Ayodhya	https://ansi.org.in/conferences/Ayodhya
Hands-on Training on Molecular Breeding for Crop Improvement-2025	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	3-4 December 2025 Coimbatore	https://tnau.ac.in/news-2/
40 th Annual Conference and National Symposium of the Indian Poultry Science Association (IPSAACON 2025)	ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research	9-11 December 2025 Hyderabad	https://www.ipsacon2025.com/
INTERNATIONAL			
Capacity Building Workshop on Food Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants	Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health, Government of Sri Lanka together with the Agriculture and Food Systems Institute and Biotech Consortium India Limited	22-23 September 2025 Colombo, Sri Lanka	https://foodsystems.org/event/gm-plants-safety-assessment-srilanka-2025/
Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	CBD Secretariat	20-24 October 2025 Panama City, Panama	https://www.cbd.int/meetings?thm=CPB
17 th ISBR Symposium (ISBR 2025)	International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR)	2-6 November 2025 Ghent, Belgium	https://isbr.info/
2025 Asian Seed Congress	Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance (APSA), National Seed Association of India (NSAI), and Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII)	17-21 November 2025 Mumbai, India	https://web.apsaseed.org/asc2025



SOUTH ASIA
BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

The South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) is an international development program implemented in India and Bangladesh by the Agriculture & Food Systems Institute (AFSI). SABP aims to work with national governmental agencies and other public sector partners to facilitate the implementation of transparent, efficient, and responsive regulatory frameworks for products of modern biotechnology that meet national goals as regards the safety of novel foods and feeds, and environmental protection.



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