

Advancing Biotechnology in Developing Countries: Lessons Learned from CGIAR Centers and Thier Partners. (C07-cohen083242-Oral)

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Abstract:

Many of the Centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research have developed collaborative research programs in modern biotechnology supporting developing country food and agricultural needs. This support encompasses research, policy studies, including intellectual property and biosafety, and more recently, impact assessment. While implementing this work, the international Centers and their partners have faced numerous challenges, especially as products from research pass through greenhouse, field, and safety trials. Finalizing products for dissemination to farmers in developing countries requires permission for confined, large scale or open field trials. Receiving national approval for such tests remains difficult, especially those arising from genetic modification technologies. This paper highlights experiences, recent actions, and lessons learned from collaborative research in biotechnology and parallel developments in biosafety and IPR. It closes by describing the challenges ahead for the Centers and their partners if they are to help farmers from diverse agricultural systems in developing countries have access to genetically modified food crops.

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