Implementing Biosafety Systems in Developing Countries: Conceptual Framework and Decision Support Tools. (C07-cohen115947-Oral)

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Abstract:

A combination of factors are at collision point regarding, on one hand, acceptable safety standards for products of agricultural biotechnology, and on the other, the potential for these technologies to address agricultural needs in developing countries. Benefits have been documented for the limited number of GM crops grown in developing countries. To make these available, policy makers, scientists, regulators, and civil society rely on biosafety review to addresses safety concerns, health and environment, and provide decisions for release. Studies in developing countries have examined regulatory decision-making, efficiencies, and bottlenecks. Building on these findings, a Conceptual Framework was developed for implementing biosafety taking a system s perspective. It presents five elements of a regulatory system, their key decision points and policy options, and emphasizes the central role of capacity. The initial framework development was followed by a second workshop, held in collaboration with FAO, to build a decision support tool that augments and builds on the original framework. This paper reports on these activities, findings from country case studies, and future planning.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Thursday, November 14, 2002
Presentation Time: 8:20 am

Keywords: