

Learning forum on plant biotechnology regulation

overview

Urgency

- Green Revolution has run its course
- Another leap in agricultural productivity needed: plant biotechnology an important tool for plant breeding
- Plant breeding today has new constraints
 - Small increments
 - New challenges: climate change, consumers, markets
 - Genetic resources

Regulation is like a rope

- It can be used to hitch our wagon to a horse
- It can be used to tie ourselves
- It can be used to hang ourselves

- Sound regulation must be acceptable to consumers but will not unnecessarily delay the use of a good technology

Concerns about regulation

- Must be rational: science-based, acceptable
- Must be compatible with other countries' regulations
 - To promote trade
 - To promote technology transfer
 - To promote collaboration in R and D

How to achieve harmonization

- Basic assumption: Is plant genetic engineering intrinsically unsafe and requires a different regulatory regime?
- Standards: How safe is safe?
- Procedures for assessment
- Can we accept each others' assessment result?

Expected outcomes

- Getting to know each other: misery loves company!
- Ideas, ideas
- Work plan?

Agenda

1. Country presentations
2. Inputs:
 - a) trends, opportunities;
 - b) regulation basics;
 - c) regulation experiences;
 - d) modalities for collaboration
3. Field visits
4. Workshop: 3 simultaneous sessions