



2013-03-19-004 FAO-BiotechNews 1-2013

To: (10) Genetically modified organisms; (11) Biomedical technology and new diagnostic methods;

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From: Updates of news and events relevant to agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries [mailto:FAO-BiotechNews-  
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 11:54 AM

### 1) GMOs in the pipeline: E-conference summary

The FAO e-mail conference on "GMOs in the pipeline: Looking to the next five years in the crop, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and agro-industry sectors in developing countries" took place from 5 November to 2 December 2012. The 11-page summary document is now available, entitled "An FAO e-mail conference on GMOs in the pipeline in developing countries: The moderator's summary", by J. Ruane. The document provides a summary of the main issues discussed by participants during this 4-week conference based on the 109 messages that were posted. From the e-mail conference, a picture emerged of a GMO pipeline that contains a considerable quantity and variety of products, indicating that the new GMOs likely to be released in developing countries within the next five years will continue to be dominated by the crop sector, where a broad range of new crop by trait combinations are in the pipeline, but may also see increased focus on new areas such as GM fish, insects and trees. See <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap998e/ap998e.pdf> (90 KB) or contact [biotech-admin@fao.org](mailto:biotech-admin@fao.org) to request a copy. All e-mail messages posted in the conference are available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/biotech/docs/conf18msgs.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/biotech/docs/conf18msgs.pdf) (0.9 MB).

### 2) Global Conference on Aquaculture proceedings

On 22-25 September 2010, the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010 took place in Phuket, Thailand, jointly organized by FAO, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and the Royal Thai Department of Fisheries. It brought together a wide-ranging group of experts and important stakeholders to review aquaculture progress and the further potential of this sector, as a basis for improving the positioning of the sector and its mandate within the global community. The conference proceedings are now available on the web, entitled "Farming the waters for people and food", edited by R.P. Subasinghe et al. Most of the 896-page proceedings is dedicated to a series of 19 expert panel reviews, three of which consider in some detail the use of biotechnologies in aquaculture, namely expert panel review 1.2 on "Novel and emerging technologies: Can they contribute to improving aquaculture sustainability?" (by C.L. Browdy et al); 3.1 on "Promoting responsible use and conservation of aquatic biodiversity for sustainable aquaculture development" (J.A.H. Benzie et al); and 3.3 on "Improving biosecurity: A necessity for aquaculture sustainability" (M. Hine et al). See <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2734e/i2734e00.htm> or contact [rohana.subasinghe@fao.org](mailto:rohana.subasinghe@fao.org) for more information.

### 3) Laboratory manual on GMO detection - English and Arabic

In 2008, FAO approved a two-year Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project in the Near East and North Africa region entitled "Strengthening capacities towards the establishment of a regional platform for the detection of genetically modified organisms", with Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen as the six participating



countries. As part of this TCP project, an advanced training course on "Detection of genetically modified organisms and biosafety for food and agriculture" took place in Aleppo, Syria on 19-24 June 2010, jointly organized by FAO, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the General Commission for Scientific and Agricultural Research (GCSAR). In the context of this training course, a laboratory manual on GMO detection was prepared, edited by A.M. Abdul Kader et al, which is now available on the web. The first half of the 322-page publication is in English while the second half is in Arabic.

See [https://apps.icarda.org/wsInternet/wsInternet.aspx/DownloadFileToLocal?filePath=Tools\\_and\\_guidelines/Laboratory\\_manual.pdf&fileName=Laboratory\\_manual.pdf](https://apps.icarda.org/wsInternet/wsInternet.aspx/DownloadFileToLocal?filePath=Tools_and_guidelines/Laboratory_manual.pdf&fileName=Laboratory_manual.pdf) (10.5 MB) or contact [alessia.laurenza@fao.org](mailto:alessia.laurenza@fao.org) for more information.

#### 4) Proceedings of First Asia Dairy Goat Conference

On 9-12 April 2012, the First Asia Dairy Goat Conference took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organized by FAO, the Universiti Putra Malaysia and the International Dairy Federation, providing a platform to share technical information and experiences and to network for the promotion of dairy goat farming. The 229-page proceedings of the conference are now available, edited by R. Abdullah et al, containing the keynote and plenary addresses as well as research papers covering various disciplines including nutrition, breeding and genetics, milk and milk products and socio-economics of goat production.

See <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2891e/i2891e00.htm> or contact [harinder.makkar@fao.org](mailto:harinder.makkar@fao.org) for more information.

#### 5) Final reports of COP-MOP 6 and COP-11

The final reports of the 6th meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 6), held on 1-5 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, and of the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11), held in the same place on 8-19 October 2012, are now available in all six UN languages, i.e. in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

See <http://bch.cbd.int/mop6/documents/> and <http://www.cbd.int/cop11/doc/> respectively or contact [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) for more information.

#### 6) OECD Biotechnology Update 24

Issue number 24 (December 2012) of the OECD Biotechnology Update, prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Internal Co-ordination Group for Biotechnology, is now available. The 32-page newsletter provides updated information on OECD activities related to biotechnology.

See <http://www.oecd.org/env/chemicalsafetyandbiosafety/biosafety-biotrack/oecdbiotechnologynewsletterupdates.htm> or contact [icgb@oecd.org](mailto:icgb@oecd.org) for more information.

#### 7) Training manuals on tissue culture of bananas

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has recently published two manuals, based on the training notes for courses of banana tissue culture nursery operators and farmers in East Africa, facilitated by IITA and Volunteer Efforts for Development Concern (VEDCO). The manuals, both by M. Lule et al, are organized into a small number of



modules, each divided into sessions (based on actual training sessions carried out in Central Uganda). The first, entitled "Trainer's manual: A training course on setting up and running a banana tissue culture nursery", is for people involved with training of nursery operators, such as extension agents or applied scientists. This 88-page book contains four modules, i.e. introduction to tissue culture bananas; business planning and business skills for nursery operators; practical management of a banana tissue culture nursery; and marketing for nursery operators. The second, entitled "Trainer's manual: A training course for banana farmers interested in growing tissue culture bananas", is for people involved with training of smallholder tissue culture farmers, such as extension agents or applied scientists. This 126-page book contains five modules, i.e. introduction to tissue culture bananas; working in groups; how to grow tissue culture bananas; business skills for farmers; and marketing for farmers. See <http://www.iita.org/web/iita/publications> or contact [m.lule@cgiar.org](mailto:m.lule@cgiar.org) or [t.dubois@cgiar.org](mailto:t.dubois@cgiar.org) for more information.

\*\*\* EVENTS \*\*\* (<http://www.fao.org/biotech/biotech-events/en/>)

27-30 May 2013, Rome, Italy. International symposium on genetics and breeding of durum wheat. Organized by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and National Academy of Sciences, the programme of this scientific symposium covers the origin and evolution of durum wheat; genetic resources and germplasm enhancement; breeding strategies and tools; adaptation and sustainability; disease and pest resistance; technological and nutritional quality; and structural and functional genomics. See <http://dwis.accademiaxl.it/index.php> or contact [durumwheat@accademiaxl.it](mailto: durumwheat@accademiaxl.it) for more information.

7 June 2013, Berlin, Germany. New approaches to diagnosis: Opportunities and challenges. This 1-day seminar is organized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and takes place during the 16th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. See <http://www.wavld2013-berlin.com/index.php?id=537&L=1> or contact [s.linnane@oie.int](mailto:s.linnane@oie.int) for more information.

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