Joint CBD/Aarhus Convention joint side event on promoting transparency and participatory approaches to biosafety-related decision-making

Perspectives of the Private Sector

Sarah Lukie, CropLife International

18 November 2025



Helping Farmers Grow

Global Industry Coalition

The voice of industry

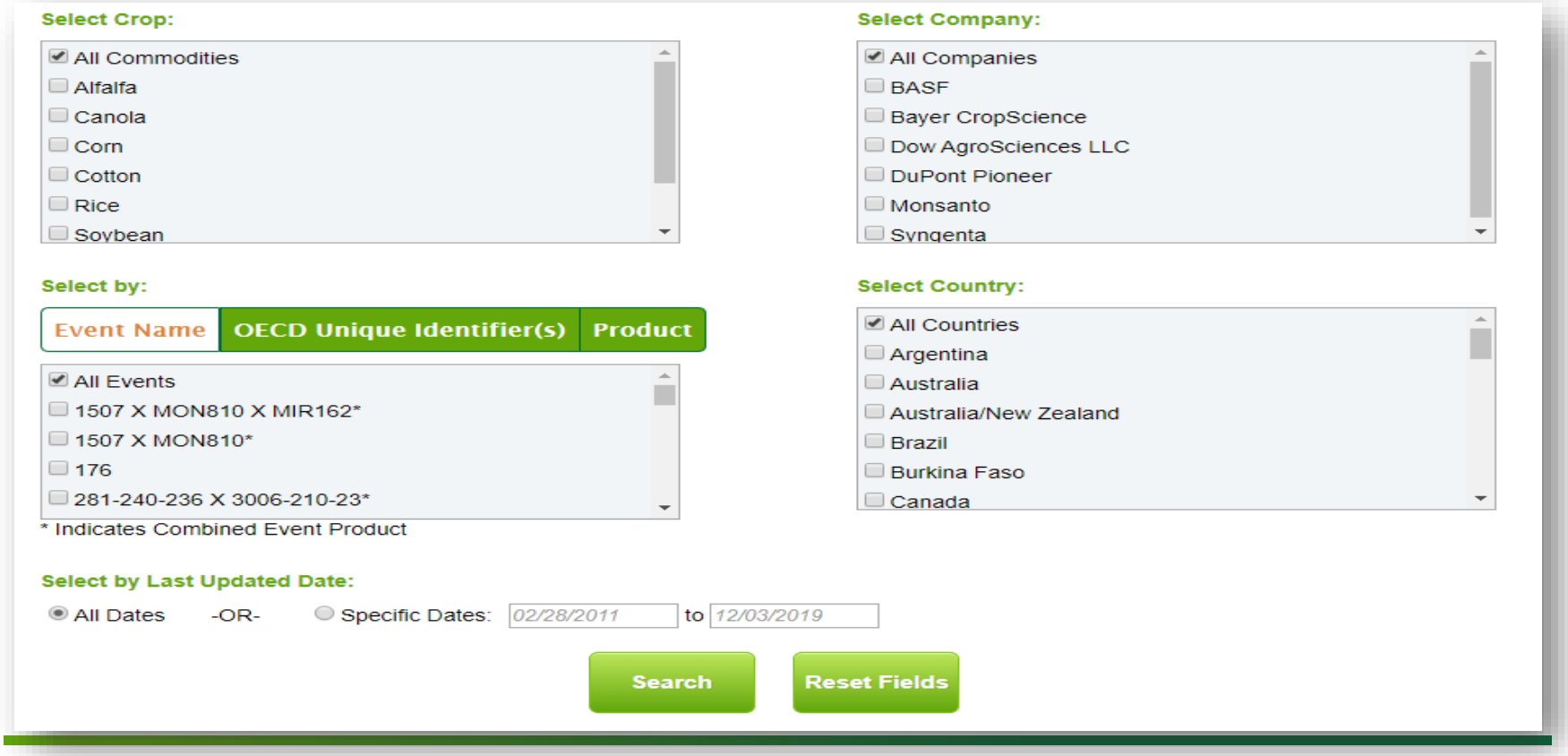
- Represents companies engaged in plant science, seed production, agricultural biotechnology, food production, animal agriculture
- Coordinates input from developers and users of biotechnology on all issues under Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (BSP) and relevant issues under Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Truly “global” representation – with partners in over 25 countries
- Observer organization for industry within the CBD
- Closely coordinates with industry stakeholders, including the grain and seed trades
- Is led by CropLife International (Sarah Lukie, Executive Director sarah.lukie@croplife.org)

Private Sector's Views and Best Practices

Access to Information and Participation in Decision-making	Effective Public Awareness and Education	Public Consultation on LMO Decisions
Crucial for facilitating transparency and accountability, and strengthening public support for the decisions taken by governments	Public awareness and education opportunities should be as transparent as possible	Transparent, timely and proportionate to the risks involved; Be consistent with the procedures followed for similar products/activities
The public should have access to information to be able to participate effectively in decision-making processes and to make informed decisions	Information given to the public should be direct and understandable	Be as inclusive as possible, balancing this with the need to focus on products that are moving forward in the regulatory review process
Each government to decide how the public may be involved in various decision-making processes	Awareness and education opportunities must be timely in order to have impact	Should emphasize the integrity and effectiveness of national decision-making processes and reflect the scope of the Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provisions on public participation in decision-making
The GIC supports public notice and comment on proposed decisions on applications for the deliberate and unrestricted release of LMOs into the environment	Specific stakeholders may need "Custom-made" information	Respect confidential information and intellectual property rights in accordance with Parties' obligations under Article 21 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention

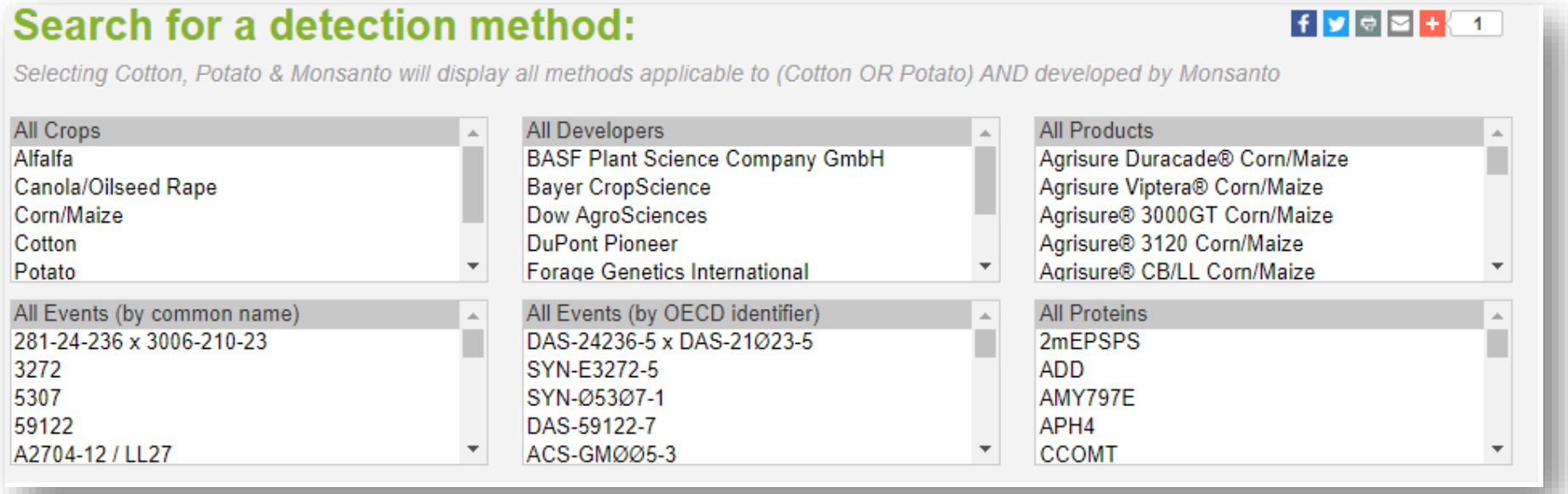
Publicly-Accessible Databases

- Host and manage website providing commercial status and risk assessment data for all CLI member company products
  - http://www.biotradestatus.com/
  - Interoperable with the Biosafety Clearing-house (BCH)



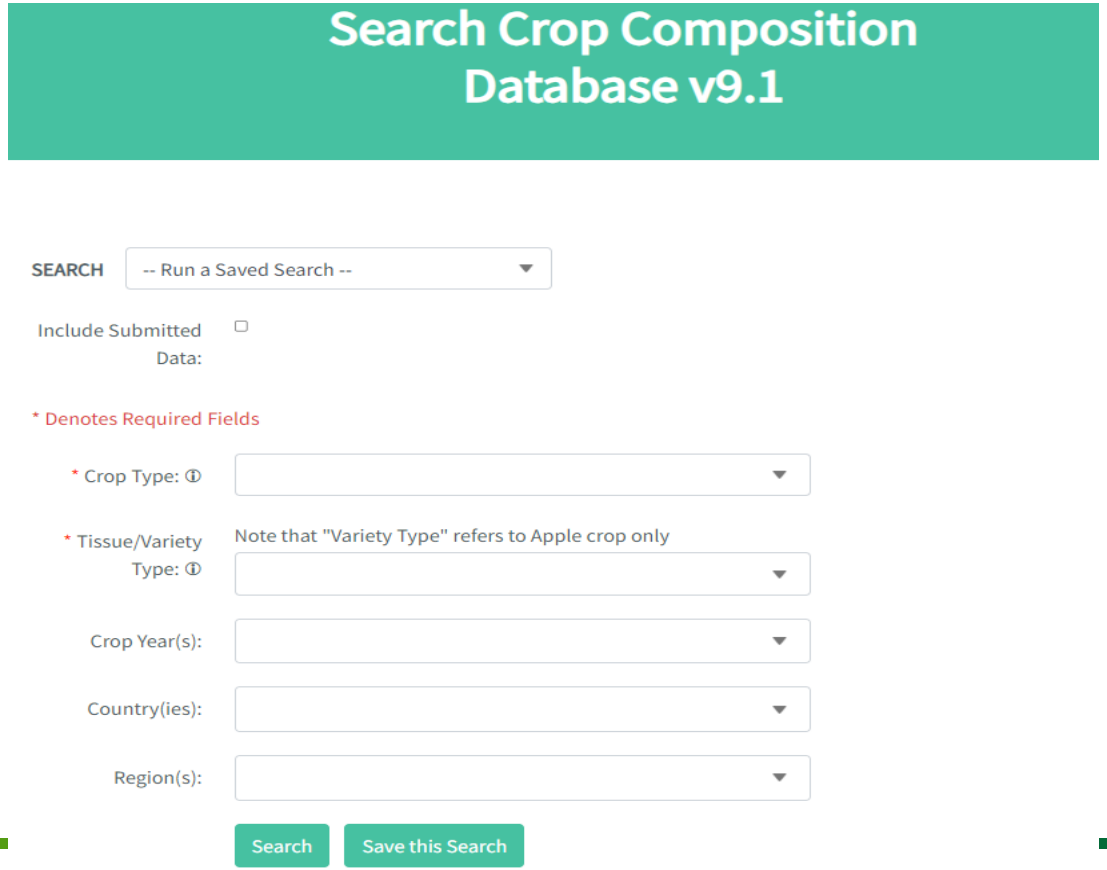
Publicly-Accessible Databases

- Host and manage a website providing detection methods for all CLI member company commercialized products
  - http://www.detection-methods.com/
  - Also provides related materials and information
  - Interoperable with the BCH



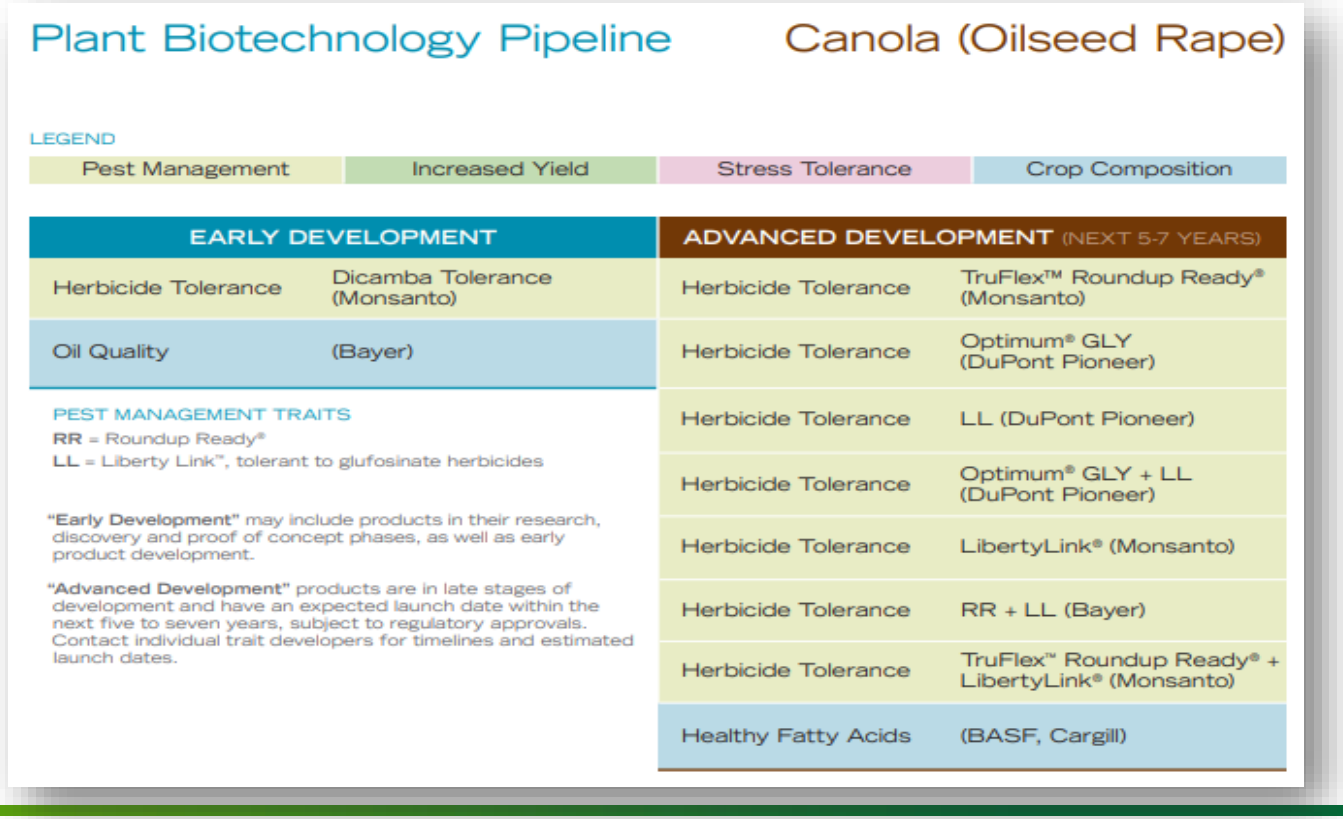
Publicly-Accessible Databases

- Provide data contributions to the Agriculture and Food Systems Institute (AFSI) crop composition database that are used as a reference for regulatory agencies internationally
  - https://www.cropcomposition.org/



Publicly-Accessible Databases

- Collect and publish annually CLI member company product pipelines
  - https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CropLifePlantBiotechPipeline2017_V5.pdf
  - Early development and advanced development (5-7 years) categories, categorized by crop



Plant Biotechnology Pipeline — Canola (Oilseed Rape)

LEGEND

Pest Management	Increased Yield	Stress Tolerance	Crop Composition

EARLY DEVELOPMENT		ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT (NEXT 5-7 YEARS)	
Herbicide Tolerance	Dicamba Tolerance (Monsanto)	Herbicide Tolerance	TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® (Monsanto)
Oil Quality	(Bayer)	Herbicide Tolerance	Optimum® GLY (DuPont Pioneer)
		Herbicide Tolerance	LL (DuPont Pioneer)
		Herbicide Tolerance	Optimum® GLY + LL (DuPont Pioneer)
		Herbicide Tolerance	LibertyLink® (Monsanto)
		Herbicide Tolerance	RR + LL (Bayer)
		Herbicide Tolerance	TruFlex™ Roundup Ready® + LibertyLink® (Monsanto)
		Healthy Fatty Acids	(BASF, Cargill)

PEST MANAGEMENT TRAITS

RR = Roundup Ready®

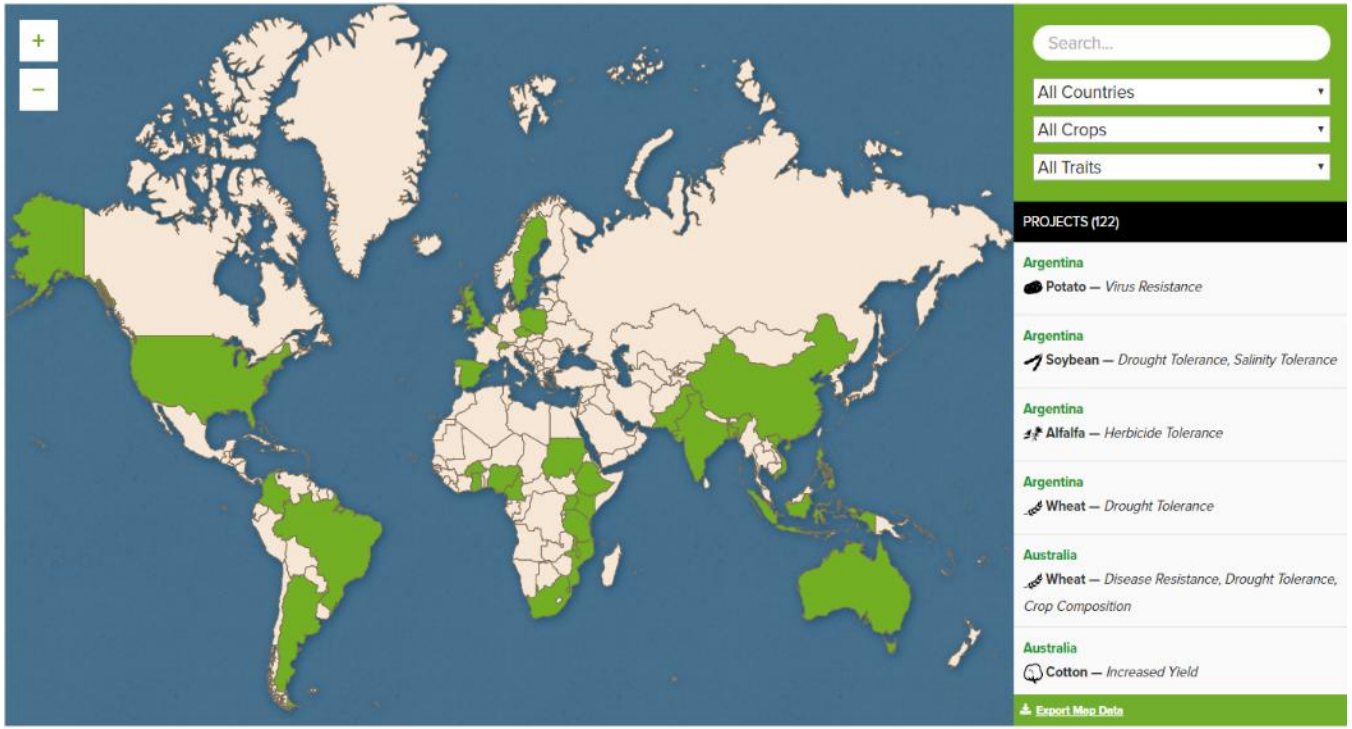
LL = Liberty Link™, tolerant to glufosinate herbicides

"Early Development" may include products in their research, discovery and proof of concept phases, as well as early product development.

"Advanced Development" products are in late stages of development and have an expected launch date within the next five to seven years, subject to regulatory approvals. Contact individual trait developers for timelines and estimated launch dates.

Publicly-Accessible Databases

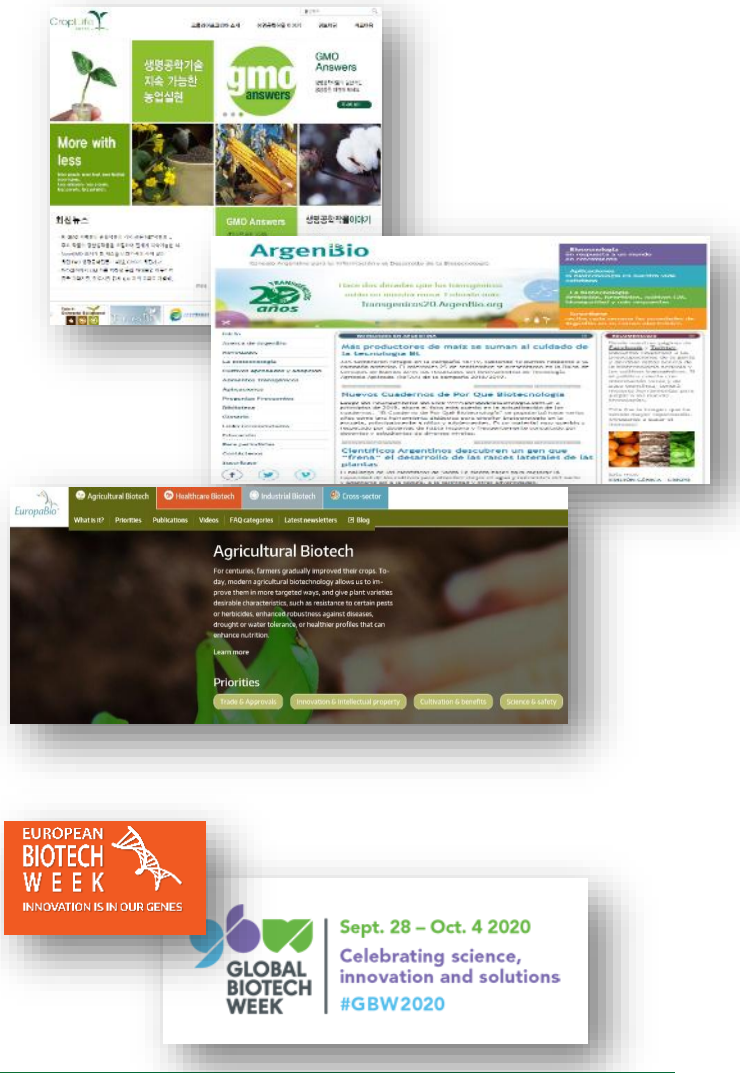
- Collect and regularly update public sector development pipeline across the globe
  - https://croplife.org/agricultural-innovation/
  - Communicated on a country-by-country basis



National and Regional Information-sharing Efforts

- National/regional biotechnology information websites in national languages:
  - CropLife Korea http://www.croplifekorea.org/rb/
  - ArgenBio http://www.argenbio.org/ and https://biotec-latam.com/en/
  - CropLife Europe https://croplifeeurope.eu/ and www.gmoinfo.eu

- National information-sharing programs
  - Biotechnology Week (Europe, Canada and the Philippines)



National and Regional Information-sharing Efforts

- Visitors Programs/Visitor's Centers/Education initiatives
  - Company-specific
- Journalist education programs
  - Councils for Biotechnology Information Japan and Brazil
- Farmer exchange programs
  - Annual Pan-Asian Farmer exchange
- Farmer training programs
  - Field Trial Compliance training in Africa
  - Sponsorship of Global Farmer Network and Alliance for Science farmer training
- Curriculum Development and Teacher Training
  - Por Qué Biotecnología (Why Biotechnology) program in Argentina trained over 10,000 teachers

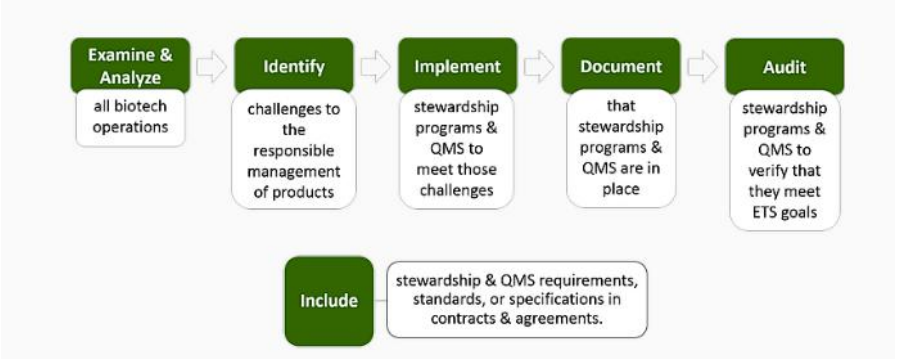


Excellence Through Stewardship (ETS)

- Global non-profit organization that promotes universal adoption of product stewardship programs and quality management systems for the full life cycle of agricultural technology products
  - Provides principles and management practices for the responsible management (handling, governance, oversight, etc.) of agricultural technology
  - Developed guides and technical resources to understand and implement stewardship and quality management systems
  - Created Stewardship Audit Process that involves members contracting for independent third-party audits of their operations to verify that stewardship programs and quality management systems are in place
  - 60+ regular and associate members



Commitments by ETS members



Other Contributions

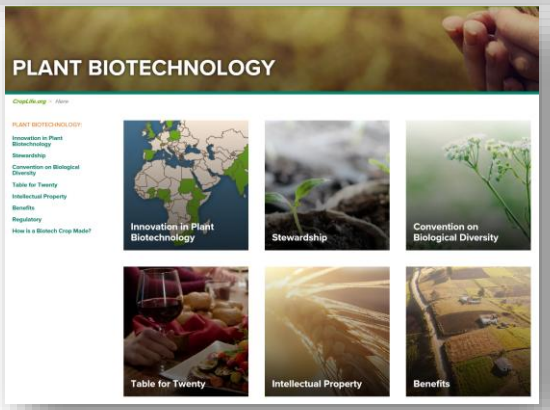
- Participate in multi-lateral forums (e.g., OECD, CBD) and international scientific conferences (e.g., International Society for Biosafety Research Symposia)

- Publish position papers on the CLI website/other national Network websites detailing policy positions with associated scientific rationale:
  - Path to market: https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Fact-Sheet-Getting-a-Biotech-Crop-to-Market.pdf
  - Stacked Trait Regulation: https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CLI-STPT-Stack-Position-Paper-January-2015_FINAL.pdf

- Make available numerous peer reviewed studies on specific proteins/products by CropLife International member companies that provide raw data
  - www.croplife.org

- Collaborate with public developers and other non-profit institutions (e.g. Golden Rice)





Final Thoughts

Transparency of government processes and decisions	• Can strengthen the public's confidence in the decisions taken and contribute to building trust in the regulatory process • Respect confidential information and intellectual property rights
Public acceptance of government decisions	• Fostered by access to information about biotechnology that is transparent, understandable, timely and relevant to their concerns
Awareness and education initiatives	• Increase knowledge of biotechnology (and science in general) in order to support public participation in decisions, especially if focused on technical questions and risk assessments • A long-term and evolving process that should follow each country's needs and experience. Activities and programs need to evolve as a country moves from establishing biosafety policies through evaluating biotechnology products to approval and adoption
Public participation in decision making	• Be as inclusive as possible; be workable (timing, type of information shared) • Should not undermine the integrity and effectiveness of the decision-making processes

The GIC supports public notice and comment on proposed decisions on applications for the deliberate and unrestricted release of LMOs into the environment

We listen and want to provide answers

What is your experience with industry participation?
Please share your views

Contact:

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