



TWN
Third World Network

**Scientific Conference 2012 - Advancing the Understanding of Biosafety
GMO Risk Assessment, Independent Biosafety Research and Holistic Analysis**

21 July 2012 - The European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER), Tara Foundation and Third World Network (TWN) are pleased to announce our second International Biosafety Conference in conjunction with the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP-6) in 2012 in Hyderabad, India. The conference will be held on Sept 28-29, right before MOP-6, which is scheduled for Oct 1-5, 2012.

The main aim of our conference is to advance the current understanding of biosafety in terms of the ecological, human health and socio-economic implications of on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The cooperation between ENSSER, Tara Foundation and TWN provides a unique opportunity to bring together independent scientists from industrialized and developing countries. This activity is seen as critical to maintain and demonstrate diversity in scientific approaches in the fields of risk research and research addressing socio-economic issues.

The second aim of our conference is to inform the delegates at MOP-6 about the current scientific challenges in biosafety research and assessment. The presentations during MOP-6 will be undertaken in a way to contribute effectively to the political and legal discussions at MOP-6.

To that end the conference works towards:

- Information and experience exchange between Indian NGO-representatives/experts and international biosafety scientists
- Capacity development of Indian NGO-representatives/experts for the national and international biosafety debates
- Discussions on strategies for sustainable GMO-free approaches to food security
- Presentation of the conference outcomes to delegates of MOP-6

The topics addressed by our conference include:

- Developments in GMO risk assessment, including discussion of the international standards on risk assessment in the context of the Cartagena Protocol's "Roadmap for Risk Assessment and Management";
- Socioeconomic considerations in GMO decision making;
- Latest scientific findings generated from independent biosafety research.

As it is especially important to create linkages and synergy between the work of the different groups acting at national and international levels, the conference will also bring together Indian and international expertise to discuss GM crops in India. Since the moratorium on approval of Bt eggplant for food purposes in February 2009 in India and the intense discussions on socioeconomic implications of Bt cotton agriculture, the Indian debates have served as examples for success or failure - depending on the perspective of the different experts - of GM crop agriculture worldwide.

Organisers	
European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER) http://www.ensser.org/	
Tara Foundation, India	http://tarafoundation.org.in/
Third World Network (TWN), Malaysia	http://www.twinside.org.sg/
Dates & Venues	
28 Sep 2012 (09:00 - 18:15) Language: English	29 Sep 2012 (09:00 - 19:00) Courtyard by Marriott, Hyderabad, 1-3-1024 Lower Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad
Participation	
If you want to register for the conference, please inform us in advance until Sep 21 by email: office@ensser.org	
The conference fee of 1500 INR / 27 USD / 21 EUR per day to cover catering costs will be collected upon registration in Hyderabad.	
Funding	
EMstitut, Germany Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft, Germany	Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme, France Third World Network, Malaysia