



Socio-economic Considerations (Paragraph 2, Article 26)

Background

The Protocol on Biosafety establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) in reaching a decision on whether to import LMOs, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities. However, when Parties are taking into account such considerations, they are at the same time required to ensure that the decision is consistent with their other international obligations. The Protocol also encourages Parties to cooperate on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of LMOs, especially on indigenous and local communities.

Some facts:

- According to the first national reports, some countries, such as Colombia, Indonesia and South Africa, have taken into account socio-economic considerations in their decision-making regarding LMOs.

What is being done?

In accordance with the medium term programme of work adopted by the first COP-MOP, this provision was considered by the COP-MOP at its second meeting. COP-MOP 2 requested, among other things, Parties and other Governments to provide their views and case studies concerning socio-economic impacts of LMOs. It also invited Parties and other Governments to share information and experiences on socio-economic impacts of LMOs through the BCH.

What is expected at COP-MOP 4?

At this meeting, Parties are expected to consider a synthesis of views and available case-studies concerning socio-economic impacts of LMOs prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations and take action where appropriate.

For more Information:

COP-MOP 4 website: <http://www.cbd.int/mop4/>

Protocol website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety>

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>.

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/faqs.asp>

Media and Outreach: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/media.shtml>

