

Pugwash-MSSRF International Dialogue on

BREAD AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

**M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Chennai, August 7-10, 2007**

Many developing countries are advancing efforts to use biotechnology to improve agriculture and health care sectors for the benefit of their populations. Significant efforts have been made in these countries for establishing research capacity, biosafety and regulatory frameworks. Both publicly funded and private sectors in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are combining new biotechnology techniques with an overall objective of ensuring food, nutrition and health security of their ever-increasing population.

These developing country biotechnology research programs are much more comprehensive than could have been foreseen a few years ago. While intellectual property issues have thus far proven manageable for most countries, high regulatory costs, increased public concerns, and lack of knowledge regarding the potential benefits and risks of biotechnology confine research products to the laboratory. This calls for accelerated efforts on delivery of products to the farmer and consumers based on the established evidence of safety and sustainability of these interventions to the food, nutrition and human health as well as to the environment.

Under this backdrop and under the auspices of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation is organizing a Four-day Annual Dialogue during August 7-10, 2007 in collaboration with national and international agencies to discuss and deliberate on issues related to safe and sustainable use of Biotechnology in the priority areas of Agriculture and Human Health. Experts representing various stakeholders will take part in the three-day dialogue that aims at providing a road map for biotechnology research and application as well as essential riders for the safe, sustainable and equitable use of technology. The major output of the dialogue will be a roadmap for the safe and responsible use of biotechnology and for assessment of risks and benefits in a transparent manner, which will build professional, political, public and media confidence.

The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN *Dr. Jacques Diouf* have kindly agreed to inaugurate the Dialogue on the 7th August 2007.

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PROGRAMME

Session I	Food, Nutrition and Human Health – Emerging Challenges
Session II	Increasing the Agricultural Productivity in unfavorable situations/ environments (climate change, abiotic stress)
Session III	Protecting Crop Productivity (Biotic stress, value addition)
	Special Lecture by Dr. Jeffery Sachs
Session IV	Protecting the Environment (Bioremediation, water quality)
Session V	Emerging technologies for human health (Nanotechnology, r-DNA vaccines)
Session VI	Societal, Trade and Proprietary Issues
Session VII	Public-private Partnerships
Session VIII	Regulations in Biotechnology (Biosafety, Regulatory process)
Session 1X	International Collaborations/ Harmonisation
Session X	Concluding Session and Recommendations