

Panelist perspectives on ETS and product stewardship value to stakeholders

Considerations:

- Biotech crops are adopted by Asian countries as an additional technology in a package of measures to address food security. This is expressed through cultivation such as in China, India, Australia, Philippines and with some countries contemplating cultivation as well. Or, by importing these biotech crops as part of routine grains trade.

Panelist perspectives on ETS and product stewardship value to stakeholders

Considerations:

- Different Asian countries are in varying stages of development. Their regulatory systems are less experienced, of small landholdings, and different farming systems.
- We need to help people understand of the unique agricultural systems in Asia in order to design stewardship initiatives suitable for Asia

Panelist perspectives on ETS and product stewardship value to stakeholders

Considerations:

- We share and support the broader societal goals of Sustainable Development and of the Millennium Development Goals through CropLife's Excellence Through Stewardship (ETS) Program.
- The ETS program is not a 'one man show' for 'no man is an island.' It needs the support and cooperation of stakeholders particularly the public sector.

Asia is experiencing significant growth in plant biotechnology investments as well as industrial and regulatory capacity building. How does or how can stewardship contribute to success in Asia?

- A successful stewardship program increases public confidence in plant biotechnologies. Harmonized biosafety regulations may become a reality much sooner than expected. With harmonization, biotechnologies could be diffused and adopted much faster to help address some pressing issues in Asia.
- Also, there will be opportunities for more public- and private-sector developed biotechnologies to see commercialization and enabling the public at large to benefit from these technologies.

Questions/comments during the open forum:

- Is the ETS Program intended to be a standard practice (mandatory) such that its logo become a kind of seal of excellence for members?
- What does it take to become a member?
- The public sector biotech R&D would be challenged as it has limited resources already for its ongoing activities. How would they be encouraged to adopt ETS?
- How do governments view or respond to the ETS program?
- In the long term, is the ETS an industry's response towards expiration of patents?
- How do member-companies fare in the compliance audit of ETS?