

FAO email conference, July 2009

From 8 June to 8 July, FAO organised an e-mail conference entitled "Learning from the past: Successes and failures with agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries over the last 20 years". The e-mail conference was organised to complement a series of five technical sector-specific documents (on biotechnology applications in crops, forestry, livestock, fisheries/aquaculture and food processing/safety) that are being prepared as part of the build up to the FAO international technical conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Developing Countries (ABDC-09, <http://www.fao.org/biotech/abdc/>).

Prior to the e-mail conference, a Background Document was written (<http://www.fao.org/biotech/cl6doc.htm>).

The conference was very successful, made rich by the participants' descriptions and analyses of the experiences of the use of agricultural biotechnologies in their own countries worldwide

There were 834 subscribers, who received each of the e-mail messages and, of these, 83 people submitted at least one message. Of the 121 messages that were posted, about 25% each came from Asia and Africa, 20% from Latin America and the Caribbean, 15% from North America, 10% from Europe and 5% from Oceania. About 75% of messages were from people living in developing countries. People living in 36 different countries sent messages, led by India, Nigeria, Argentina, United States and Cameroon. Roughly 40% of messages were from people working in universities; 28% from national and CGIAR research centres; 10% each from the private sector, NGOs and independent consultants and 5% from people working in Governments. All messages were available on the web (<http://www.fao.org/biotech/logs/cl6logs.htm>).

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