

Cornell Alliance for Science statement on public awareness, education and participation

Mr. Chair:

I speak on behalf of Cornell University's Alliance for Science.

The Alliance for Science encourages public awareness, education, and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling, and use of LMOs. It is vital to make good information available to the public and interested stakeholders considering the complexity of this field.

The Alliance for Science has covered and will continue to share stories of people engaged in innovative technologies that aim to safely and responsibly minimize farming's ecological footprint and deliver food security.

We believe it is necessary for all governments to have more knowledgeable engagement regarding the potential benefits of modern biotechnology for human well-being, as is stated in the preamble of the Biosafety Protocol. We also support the continuation of adequate communications on the existing accountability and safety measures.

Both are pivotal in order to build trust, and demonstrate the competence and integrity of actions taken by the parties to the Protocol.

We encourage all parties not only to continue with current efforts but to intensify their work programs dedicated to raising awareness, educating, and fostering participation on the safe transfer, handling, and use of LMOs, especially on communicating the potential benefits, since this will ultimately fulfill the requirements of Article 23 of the Protocol.

Thank you.