

Cornell Alliance for Science statement on the effectiveness of the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol

Madame Chair:

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

We believe access to scientific innovation has the potential to improve environmental sustainability and enhance food security.

As is recognized in the preamble of the Biosafety Protocol, we fully support the idea that biotechnology is an essential element for biodiversity and acknowledge its great potential for human well-being, if developed and used with adequate safety measures.

Cornell University and the Alliance for Science have collaborated in safe and responsible biotechnology sharing projects¹ that have reduced pesticide use and improved smallholder farmers' livelihoods.

The Biosafety Protocol can allow innovation to tip the scales in our planet's favor and help us overcome tomorrow's challenges by encouraging and allowing parties to make decisions for the safe transfer and use of biotechnology applications through a case-by-case, scientifically sound and transparent basis.

In regards to the effectiveness of the protocol, we welcome the revised text of the fourth national report under the Protocol on Biosafety. Furthermore, we applaud the party's compliance and further exhort them to make use of existing tools like the Biosafety Clearing House.

Thank you.

¹ The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II cooperative agreement (ABSPII): Bt brinjal provided to the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) through a public private partnership between Mahyco, Cornell University, Sathguru Management Consultants, BARI and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).