Issues relating to technology transfer in context of CBD – An Introduction

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Dr. Vibha Ahuja
Biotech Consortium India Limited
PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE APPROACH PAPER

1. Introduction
2. An overview of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation under CBD
3. Review of cross-cutting features in other international agreements such as WTO.
4. Information on ongoing initiatives in India with respect to technologies from developed countries and technologies to developing countries
5. Overview of measures taken for facilitating technology transfers by developed countries.
6. Recommendations
1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION UNDER CBD

To develop meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 as well as related provisions by promoting and facilitating transfer of technologies from developed to developing countries as well as among developing countries to ensure implementation of three objectives of the Convention and to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010. It has four major elements as given below:

- Technology assessments
- Information system
- Creating enabling environment
- Capacity building and enhancement

Integrated approach required at all levels based on partnership and cooperation among inter alia the private sector, governments, indigenous and local communities, bilateral and multi lateral institutions, funding institutions, NGOs and academic and research
Technology Assessments

Objective
Technology needs, potential benefits, costs and risks of such technologies, and the related capacity-building needs of Parties are identified in response to national priorities and policies.

Activities:
- Preparation of the work programmes of technology assessment addressing the technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors.
- Benefit-risk analysis along with associated costs with the introduction of technologies.
- Dissemination of assessment at national and international level.
- Information on methodologies for the assessment of the technology needs.

Progress
- Found to be a very complex process.
- The Secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations and with input by Parties and Governments, shall collect...
Information system

Objective
National, regional and international information systems for technology transfer and cooperation provide comprehensive information of relevance to foster technology transfer and technology cooperation.

Activities:
- Develop web pages and print media for information on initiatives and databases for tech transfer and cooperation.
- Information exchange through clearing house mechanisms (CHM).
- Compilation and synthesis of national systems for technology transfer and cooperation including the identification of the best practices.
- Promote the development of international and regional information systems.

Progress
Separate web page established under CHM.
Creating enabling environment

- **Objective**
  To identify and put in place institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks conducive to private and public sector technology transfer and cooperation, taking also into account existing work of relevant international organizations and initiatives.

- **Activities:**
  - Preparation of technical studies to analyze the role of IPR in the context of the technology transfer taking into account benefits and cost of IPR.
  - Measures and mechanisms to foster and enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies.
  - Design and implement mechanisms for effective involvement and participation of indigenous and local communities.

- **Progress**
Objective:
Technical, scientific, institutional and administrative capacity is adequate for the effective cooperation, transfer, diffusion and adaptation of technology as well as technical and scientific cooperation.

Activities:
Financial and technical support and training to be provided by relevant organizations for capacity building with respect to needs and priorities identified by the countries.
3. Review of cross-cutting features in other international agreements such as WTO.

- Provisions on technology transfer form an important part of several multi lateral agreements such as TRIPS of WTO.

- A review of the cross-cutting features will be undertaken including their impact on facilitating technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries, if any.
National and regional initiatives in all the four elements of the programme of technology transfer will be compiled. Areas to be covered include:

- **Technology assessments**: Databases of technology requirements, surveys by TIFAC and other agencies.
- **Information system**: Databases of available technologies by government, research institutions and non government organizations at national level. Agencies such as APCTT at the regional level.
- **Creating enabling environment**: Enactment of new IPR regulations such as Amendments to Patents Act, Biodiversity Act, PVPFR Act, GI Act etc. Various facilitating schemes by DST, DBT, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR etc.
- **Capacity building and enhancement**: Training programmes
5. OVERVIEW OF MEASURES TAKEN FOR FACILITATING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

- To collect information on initiatives, measures taken by various institutions in developed countries such as financing support, training, matching services, partnerships, alliances and support for equipment purchase or licensing as well as incentives provided to industry aimed at facilitator transfer of technologies to developing countries.

- To analyse the impact of such measures and try to identify the best practices for facilitating technology transfer.
MODES OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- Commercial technology transfers: Most common, through contracts and payments with private sector being the main supplier.
- Informal technology transfers: Transfer through reverse engineering, through the movement of skilled personnel from one country or organization to another, through consulting trade journals and technical papers in international journals and through technical visit and participation in seminars, conferences and trade fairs.
- Non commercial technology transfers: Initiatives
ISSUES

1. Methodologies for assessment of technology needs and prioritization of technology requirements.
2. Sharing of information