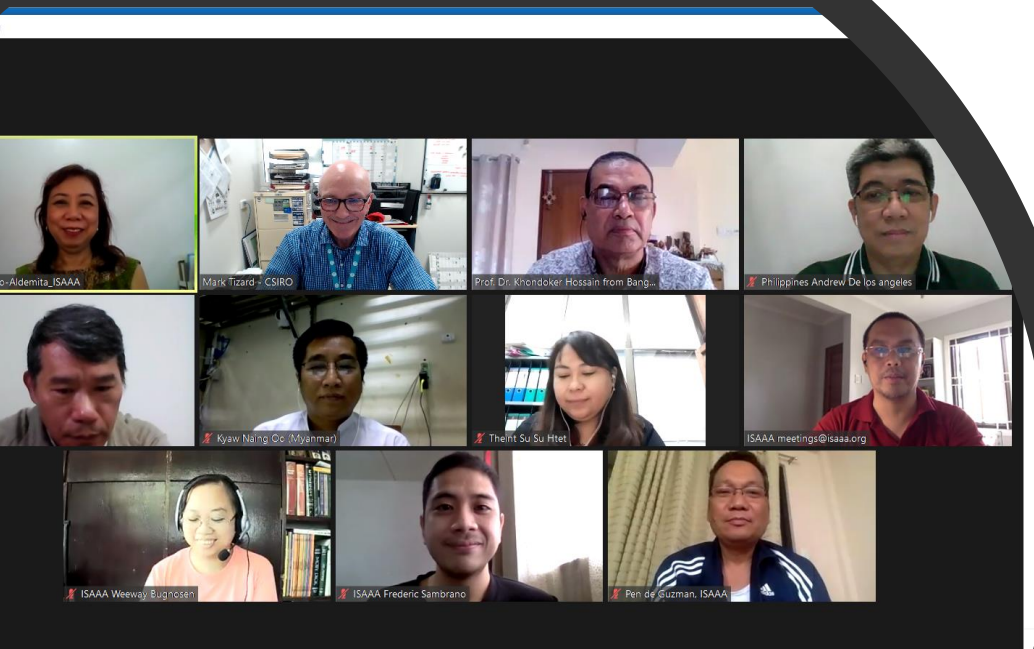

Asia-Oceania Discussion

Report back

Bangladesh

1. A proactive government that has established a number of Institutes to develop and promote biotechnology
2. Biotech is still “abstract” to the consumer, but awareness is increasing
3. Improving animal productivity is attractive
4. Must make sure it is available not locked to the big producers only; subsidies from government to deliver
5. Policy formulation and design to promote the positive aspects of biotech

Tiawan

1. Much noise and attention in the public around GM and not in a good way
2. GE versus GM is not yet defined – needs separate classification. EU issue is not good but perhaps to be resolved next year. S America, Australia, Japan and others good.
3. Ministry of Science and Technology is positive, Ministry of Agriculture is hesitant
4. Ministry of Health will ultimately decide (re GM vs GE) – they set the principles for regulation based on definition: GM or not
5. Public will want safety – they are unclear on GE but as for GM they are, on the whole, totally against it.
6. GMO/GM are not widely discussed and schools now rejecting offers of education outreach. COVID may impact on acceptance of science making tech more popular
7. Trust is the science (and thus regulation) is the most important aspect
8. PRRS and ASF resistant pigs may be the best examples to help acceptance.

Myanmar

1. Primary job is to engage the farmers in the value of animal biotech and gain their consent – regulation will be important and is in development (close now)
2. Probably not locally produced to start with – imported goods will be the driver
3. Consumer will want it to be cheap - but safe! This means it may be too competitive with local produce (tension in this aspect)
4. Will need to promote the benefits to the consumer
5. Safety most likely will follow outcomes of regulation in other OECD countries with advanced frameworks for safety – while Myanmar builds capacity.

Philippines

1. Currently a good and positive engagement with the public and stakeholders
2. Regulation aspects have been (and need to be) transparent and involving all stakeholders.
3. This has been good for the plant/feed/crop field – simply need to migrate across to animal biotech regulation (and promotion)
4. Setting up a good framework for GM animals now which involves public and stakeholder consultation
5. Public perception it good at present as FDA Philippines has high levels of trust in safety
6. Being signatory to the SDN1/2 from Argentina is seen as good – but GE and GM distinction is not a critical issue (c.f. Taiwan).

NEXT STEPS

Bangladesh

National taskforce and tech committees driving capability/capacity building in biotech including extension/education.

Policy makers, producers, stakeholders need to mobilize to engage the public.

Opportunity for o/s assistance in training for improved understanding at all levels scientists, producers, policy makers (currently focused on crops, animal biotech not yet mobilized)

Taiwan

Classification issue (GE vs GM) is going to be big. Communication with the public is the first step as they do not understand the technology.

Trust in government is low, but Ministry of Health is at the centre. May be a place to start with assistance, policy setting and regulation

NEXT STEPS

Myanmar

Process for regulations setting is well underway.

Farmer/public education to increase understanding of benefits will improve acceptance but trade/competition from imports is a complication.

Training and capacity building for laboratory networks for testing and safety assessment seen a beneficial to assure products are safe (keep to acceptance).

Philippines

Crop GM seems to be well tolerated. Bt Eggplant and Golden Rice approved and may help show benefits of the technology. Demonstrated benefits will be needed for animal biotech acceptance.

Regulation is important for public acceptance and training of new young people to come through into these role is crucial and an opportunity for assistance

1. What are the main either challenges or limitations you find as relevant for the animal biotech industry in your country and how to overcome such limitations?

o Engagement and Communication

§ What steps can be taken to increase positive interaction among developers, regulators, and farmers?

§ What are the consumers and civil society concerns?

§ How can we effectively engage the public in the policy setting process?

§ How can regulatory authorities explain the safety (and science) of GM and gene edited foods without bias?

§ What steps can be taken to promote communication and public acceptance of animal biotechnology?

§ Whose responsibility is it to take such actions?

§ What role should government officials play?

o Training

§ How can we help scientists and regulators to be better narrative and to interact positively with civil society on such issues

§ What training needs for scientists, regulators and developers are currently unmet?

o Marketing and Trade

§ What can we do to address issues regarding international trade in products of animal biotechnology?

o Policy (IP)

2. What are the next steps we can take