



ISAAA in 2025



**Driving Informed Discussion
and Responsible Adoption**



ABOUT ISAAA

The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, Inc. (ISAAA, Inc.) is a not-for-profit international organization dedicated to being a leading biotech information resource that provides science-based information, capacity-building programs, and policy support to farmers and consumers. With a mission to feed the world with knowledge, ISAAA supports transformative technologies, fosters impactful partnerships, and facilitates the development of science-based policies toward food-secure communities.



YEAR in REVIEW

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND MANAGEMENT

Maintained the **Gene-Edited Animal Database** (with UC Davis), tracking 21 regulatory-approved and 192 research-stage animals, pulling in over

63,800 global views

Powered international research and regulations via the **GM Approval Database**, generating

1.83M+ monthly page views with a 98% helpfulness rating from global users

Distributed the **Biotech Updates** e-newsletter to nearly **20,000 global subscribers**

(achieving **1.69M+ views**), alongside 16 issues of the Gene Editing Supplement and translations into Japanese, Thai and Simplified Chinese

Released the 5th issue of **Double Helix** magazine for senior high school students and translated the **Klima** storybook into three regional Philippine languages (Filipino, Cebuano, and Ilocano), reaching

11,000+ local learners online

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Convened 100+ members

of the **Philippine judiciary and regulatory agencies** for *The Future of Food and Law* workshop, advocating for a transition toward risk-based regulatory frameworks over absolute bans

Hosted the annual **ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (ASEAN GMFNet)** meeting alongside the

Philippine Department of Agriculture Biotech Program (DA BPO), harmonizing GMO testing methods, low-level presence (LLP) limits, and biosafety guidelines across member states

Partnered with **DA BPO** and the **Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines** to conduct a section-by-section overhaul of the country's 20-year-old **Risk Assessment Report (RAR)** form, aligning it completely with international standards

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND MANAGEMENT

Jointly hosted the **Empowering Informed Reporting** workshop alongside Bayer CropScience and Science Communicators PH, directly connecting **40+ media practitioners** with leading scientists to enhance the mainstream coverage of biotechnology

Solidified ongoing **technical campaigns** with **2Blades** (on gene editing for disease resistance), **Emerging Ag** (on gene drive technologies), and **CropLife Asia**

Synergized **13 public and private organizations** to host a record-breaking, top-tier **ASCA8 training program**

CAPACITY BUILDING

Graduated a milestone cohort at the **8th Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety Regulation, and Communication (ASCA8)** in Manila, providing intensive, hands-on regulatory and research training to **over 20 key biotech players from 7 countries**

Collaborated with the **Philippine NCBP** on a 2-year initiative to integrate age-appropriate **molecular genetics and biosafety instructional materials** directly into the Grade 10 MATATAG curriculum



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



As ISAAA advances into 2025, I am proud to reflect on an organization that continues to stand at the forefront of informed dialogue, scientific integrity, and responsible innovation in agricultural biotechnology. In an era marked by climate uncertainty, food system disruptions, and widening development gaps, ISAAA's mission has never been more relevant—or more urgent.

Throughout the year, ISAAA has remained steadfast in its commitment to evidence-based communication, capacity building, and inclusive engagement. Our programs have empowered policymakers, scientists, journalists, educators, and farmers with credible information to support sound decision-making and foster public trust in science. By translating complex technologies into accessible knowledge, ISAAA continues to bridge the divide between innovation and societal understanding.

The impact of our work is global yet deeply rooted in local realities. From strengthening biosafety literacy and regulatory understanding to amplifying science-driven narratives in regions where misinformation persists, ISAAA has played a critical role in enabling responsible adoption of agricultural innovations that benefit smallholder farmers, consumers, and the environment alike. These accomplishments are the result of strong partnerships, dedicated staff, and the unwavering support of our donors and collaborators.

As we look ahead, ISAAA remains committed to adapting to emerging challenges and opportunities—embracing new technologies, expanding strategic partnerships, and reinforcing our role as a trusted convener in global agricultural discourse. Our vision is clear: a future where innovation is guided by science, inclusivity, and sustainability, and where informed choices lead to resilient food systems and improved livelihoods.

On behalf of the ISAAA Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, supporters, and team members whose dedication makes our work possible. Together, we will continue to drive informed discussion and responsible adoption for the benefit of present and future generations.

Dr. William D. Dar
Chair, ISAAA Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM ISAAA, Inc. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marking 34 years of impact, ISAAA celebrates the continued support of our partners and donors. Their trust enables us to strategize and serve as an effective global channel for delivering knowledge on innovative agricultural and food solutions.

Once again, we made a mark in the science and biotechnology communication space in 2025, highlighting new innovations, global regulatory trends, and the acceptance and adoption of innovative products through our flagship resources. All the communication products are released and accessible to the general public through our ISAAA website, with information on how to access them and donate. Moreover, ISAAA's visibility across several social media platforms has consistently reached a young audience through attractive, easy-to-understand interactive posts. Information amplification paid off as ISAAA, Inc. continues to be the go-to resource for food and agriculture biotechnology.

With new and longtime partners, ISAAA has conducted communication activities with 2Blades on gene editing and disease resistance, Emerging Ag's gene drive, and the Philippine Department of Science and Technology's Grade 10 biotech module, as well as capacity-building and communication projects with the Philippine Department of Agriculture, to name a few.

Another milestone was the 8th Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety, and Communication held in the Philippines last September with 50 participants from 14 countries and a record 13 partners, educating 250 participants over the last 8 years.

We have presented our partnership portfolio to interested parties and will launch new, impactful initiatives in 2026. We thus invite you to contact us and be a part of the ISAAA, Inc. global circle of partners seeking to mutually contribute to a world where food is always on the table through sustainable agribiotechnology.

Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita
Executive Director



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ASCA8 in Manila trains more than 20 key biotech players through intensive discussions and experiential learning

The 8th Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety Regulation, and Communication (ASCA8) trained more than 20 participants from 7 countries in key topics related to agricultural biotechnology, including research and development, commercialization, regulation, and communication, through intensive discussions and experiential learning. From the success of previous ASCA runs, which have trained over 250 biotech professionals, ASCA8 fostered training, collaboration, and sustainability, providing a platform for networking among scientists, regulators, and stakeholders, with the help of co-organizers and partners such as the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC), Pt-Bio, CropLife Asia, CropLife Philippines, CropLife Indonesia, CropLife Vietnam, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service/US Embassy Jakarta, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Studies and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Bayer Asia Pacific, FuturaGene, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Corteva Agriscience, and Science Communicators Philippines (SciCommPH).



GEAD and Animal Biotech Resource Page strengthen global knowledge access

ISAAA, Inc. sustained its collaborative efforts with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) to develop and maintain the Gene-Edited Animal Database (GEAD), a global information resource on animals developed through gene editing for agricultural applications. In 2025, GEAD brings the total entries to 21 gene-edited animals that have undergone regulatory review and 192 entries that remain in the research stage or have yet to pass regulatory processes. From January to December 2025, GEAD recorded more than 63,800 visits and views worldwide, strengthening its role as a trusted platform for accessible, science-based information on gene-edited animals.



Advancing multi-sectoral engagement on gene drive technologies

On November 20, 2025, ISAAA, Inc., in partnership with the Outreach Network for Gene Drive Research, organized the webinar *Gene Drive Technologies: Advances in Health, Conservation, and Governance*, engaging 123 participants from 39 countries. The event brought together global experts to discuss applications of gene drive in vector-borne disease control, biodiversity conservation, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory frameworks. The webinar strengthened knowledge exchange on emerging gene drive technologies worldwide, reaching 1,276 individuals across social media platforms and effectively engaging key stakeholders from academia, research, and regulatory agencies.



IWRAAAAB 2025 bridges science and policy for animal biotechnology

In November 2025, ISAAA, Inc., the University of California, Davis, ISAAA AfriCenter, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) co-organized the Sixth International Workshop on Regulatory Approaches for Agricultural Applications of Animal Biotechnologies (IWRAAAAB 2025) in Ghent, Belgium. Supported by the US Department of Agriculture, the event convened 51 global experts from 25 countries alongside the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR) conference. Participants evaluated regulatory frameworks for emerging New Genomic Techniques across Asia-Oceania, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Through diverse case studies in fish, cattle, and poultry, attendees addressed global trade challenges, animal welfare, and food safety, ultimately advocating for harmonized, proportionate international regulations to ensure sustainable agricultural innovation. ISAAA facilitated attendance for nine Asian participants and was represented by Executive Director Dr. Rhodora Romero Aldemita, who served as a speaker and moderator.



Photo source: AfriCenter



ISAAA and 2Blades launch digital resource on rust-resistant soy

In a collaborative effort to safeguard regional food security, ISAAA, Inc. and 2Blades released *Pocket K: Rust-Resistant Soy for Africa*. This free, mobile-friendly publication details the development of transgenic soybeans designed to counter Asian soybean rust, a severe threat to production in Kenya and across the continent. Part of ISAAA's signature "Pockets of Knowledge" series, the resource simplifies complex biotech solutions, breeding advancements, and the collaborative frameworks necessary to deliver climate-resilient crops to African farmers. The Pocket K has had 625 views since its release.



Pocket K No. 61
Rust-Resistant Soy for Africa

Download now:
bit.ly/ISAAAPK61

ASEAN member states strengthen cooperation and collaboration on GMO testing

The Philippine government, through the Department of Agriculture Biotechnology Program Office (DA BPO), partnered with ISAAA, Inc. in hosting the annual meeting of the ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (ASEAN GMFNet). The ASEAN GMFNet is a well-established body that facilitates the exchange of information on the GMO regulatory framework for biosafety in food, feed, and the environment, and capacity building in GMO testing and evaluation among the ASEAN member states.

The meeting provided substantive discussions on key items, including low-level presence (LLP), information sharing on GMO reference materials, innovations such as gene editing, risk assessment guidelines, and GMO testing capacity. Key priority areas for collaboration and vital initiatives were identified to further strengthen the regulatory framework and capacity for GMO detection methods among ASEAN member states. A series of field tours was also conducted to showcase the Philippines' advancements in agricultural biotechnology and GMO testing.

The meeting fostered stronger collaboration and regional cooperation on GMO regulation in the context of food safety. Looking ahead, important initiatives were outlined in the new plan of action to strengthen capacity in biosafety regulation and GMO assessment through targeted support and the development of technical guidelines for the safety assessment of emerging biotechnology advancements.



Philippine regulators reinforce risk assessment of GM biotech products

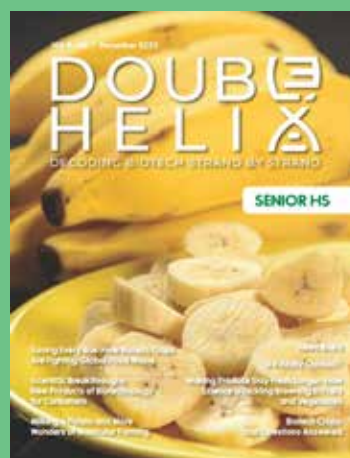
In a move to improve risk assessment of modern biotech products, a workshop on refining the risk assessment report (RAR) form was conducted, bringing together technical experts from regulatory agencies, academe, and partner institutions. The DA Biotechnology Program Office (DA BPO) partnered with ISAAA, Inc. and the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP) in conducting the workshop. The workshop resulted in a section-by-section review of the 20-year-old RAR form, refined the text and removed redundancies, clarified intent for such assessment, and harmonized language characterizing host plant biology and donor organism, genetic modification, molecular characterization, compositional analysis, toxicity and allergenicity risks, and nutritional assessment.

The collaborative undertaking reinforces the country's efforts to strengthen food and environmental safety assessment of modern biotech products and to align with guidelines on risk assessment set by Codex Alimentarius, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Agriculture & Food Systems Institute (AFSI). The workshop produced a more coherent, science-based, and internationally aligned RAR template for risk assessment of GM biotech products for food, feed, and processing.



Driving science literacy through the Know the Science project

Through the *Know the Science* project with the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Biotechnology Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA Biotech Program), ISAAA, Inc. strengthened science communication efforts to enhance biotech literacy among young audiences. The fifth issue of *Double Helix*, the country's first agbiotech magazine for senior high school (SHS) students, was released on December 17, 2025, featuring biotech products developed for consumers. Alongside this, the *Klima* storybook continued to expand its reach, garnering over 46 downloads on the ISAAA website and 1,364 views on YouTube. In 2025, *Klima* was translated into Filipino, Cebuano, and Ilocano, significantly improving accessibility for diverse learners and reaching over 11,000 individuals online. These initiatives collectively advanced inclusive, youth-centered engagement and contributed to broader public understanding of agricultural biotechnology.



Mainstreaming biotechnology and biosafety in the Philippine classrooms

The National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) tapped ISAAA to become one of its partners in the project “Mainstreaming Biotechnology and Biosafety in the Philippine Education Sector.” The project, a two-year initiative (2024–2026) funded by DOST-PCAARRD, aims to enhance the science literacy of Grade 10 students and the pedagogical skills of science teachers under the MATATAG curriculum. It addresses critical gaps and public misconceptions regarding molecular genetics, risk assessment, and GMOs. Following a nationwide survey evaluating the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of students and educators, the NCBP, ISAAA, and partners are developing age-appropriate, evidence-based instructional materials to prepare future generations for a biotechnology-driven world.



Joint initiatives to drive regional agri-biotech awareness

Through strategic public-private partnerships, ISAAA, Inc. and CropLife Asia collaborate to champion agricultural sustainability, focusing on technology transfer and the widespread dissemination of scientific knowledge to developing countries. A core component of this partnership is CropLife Asia's support for various information-sharing initiatives, including the *Biotech Updates* newsletter, highlighting breaking news in gene and genome editing, the bi-monthly *Gene Editing Supplement*, and a dedicated Gene Editing Resource hosted on the ISAAA website. To expand regional accessibility, the collaboration also facilitates the translation of *Biotech Updates* into Thai, Japanese, and Simplified Chinese. The joint effort yielded 16 issues of the *Gene Editing Supplement* and more than 100 *Biotech Updates* articles focused specifically on gene editing. In September, CropLife Asia extended its support to the academic and professional community by sponsoring the participation of 17 individuals in ASCA8.



Elevating biotech communication and policy in the Philippines

A workshop in Manila, organized by ISAAA, Bayer CropScience, and Science Communicators, gathered over 40 media practitioners to enhance biotechnology and science communication. The workshop *Empowering Informed Reporting: A Workshop on Biotechnology and Science Communication for Philippine Media Practitioners* focused on global crop adoption, regulatory updates, and public acceptance. By fostering collaboration between scientists and journalists, the organizers aim to improve reporting quality and promote a more biotech-informed society through novel campaigns.

While biotech corn has been adopted in the Philippines since 2002, the commercialization of new biotech crops in the country is frequently stalled by legal challenges and public opposition. To bridge the gap between agri-biotech and law, a collaborative workshop, *The Future of Food and Law*, brought together over 100 representatives from the Philippine judiciary, regulatory bodies, and scientific community to address the legal and procedural hurdles facing agricultural biotechnology. The workshop participants highlighted the need for specialized judicial training, the creation of a comprehensive national biosafety law, and a shift toward a risk-based application of the “precautionary principle” rather than absolute bans. Ultimately, the workshop underscored that harmonizing the relationship between science and the law is essential for the Philippines to leverage innovation to address climate change and advance sustainable development.



FLAGSHIP RESOURCES

Connecting crop adoption with the demand for biotech information

The ISAAA website continues to be the global go-to resource for biotech insights, clocking over 1.4 million pageviews from 1 million visitors this past year. Most traffic arrived organically via search (54%), with the highest engagement coming from major biotech-producing nations such as the USA, India, the Philippines, China, and Australia. This data highlights a clear trend: countries growing biotech crops are also the hungriest for biotech data. The site's GM Approval Database remained the top draw with 567k views, while a surge in downloads for ISAAA Brief 56 (3,465 downloads) underscores a massive global appetite for info on gene editing and food security.



Biotech Updates drive awareness and understanding of biotech globally



With nearly 20,000 subscribers worldwide, ISAAA's *Biotech Updates* continue to serve as a vital source of biotechnology information, reaching over 1,690,000 page views in 2025. A recent survey showed that 95% of the respondents found the weekly e-newsletter valuable in keeping them informed of the latest biotech developments. Complementing this, the monthly *Gene Editing Supplement* strengthened subscribers' understanding of gene editing, with 81% of the respondents indicating that this supplement was helpful. The *Gene Editing Supplement* has over 114,500 page views in 2025.



Biotech Updates should have a larger audience! I came across it essentially by accident. You present information and articles that I don't find elsewhere. More people should be aware of your great resource!"

– Faculty/academic staff from the College of Southern Nevada, USA



GMAD provides me with a valuable overview of countries that cultivate GM crops. I use this information in planning risk-based control of imports to Denmark."

– Government regulator from the Danish Agricultural Agency in Denmark

Increasing the accessibility of biotech information through digital platforms and the Science Speaks blog

Since 2009, ISAAA, Inc. has engaged the public with science-based information on biotechnology through social media platforms—Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and TikTok. In 2025, targeted campaigns focused on gene editing, science communication, food security, women in science, and farmer experiences. These initiatives resulted in 3,610 online mentions, reaching 732,579 individuals and engaging a collective audience of 60,171 followers across all platforms. Through a multifaceted approach, ISAAA, Inc. keeps its audience informed on the global adoption and benefits of biotech crops, new breeding technologies, and the latest news regarding crop approvals. Complementing these activities is ISAAA, Inc.'s blog, Science Speaks. The blog publishes weekly articles on various topics written by ISAAA writers. In 2025, 50 articles were published in Science Speaks, with 118,000 page views. Some blog articles were republished on local and international websites and news sites.



GMAD supports policy and research through accurate information

With over 1,835,000 page views per month, the GM Approval Database (GMAD) remains a valuable tool for researchers, policymakers, professionals, and the general public. The database provides detailed, up-to-date information on global GM approvals, including event descriptions, traits, developers, and year of approval. A recent survey revealed that 98% of respondents found GMAD helpful, while approximately 90% confirmed the accuracy of its information. For many years, GMAD has served as a trusted reference for the review of GM events worldwide.



Analyzing agri-biotech media coverage analysis in the Philippines

In 2025, ISAAA, Inc. contributed to evidence-based communication on biotechnology by publishing a peer-reviewed study in the Philippine Journal of Crop Science titled "A 24-Year Longitudinal Analysis (2000-2023) of Philippine Media Coverage of Agri-Biotechnology." The study examined 2,525 articles from four major daily newspapers, revealing evolving trends in the representation of agricultural biotechnology in the Philippines. The findings highlighted a reduction in fear-based framing in reporting, consistent use of government sources, and increasingly neutral-to-positive media coverage over time. This publication highlights ISAAA's commitment to promoting balanced and accurate reporting of agricultural biotechnology in the Philippines.

Philippine Journal of Crop Science (PJCS) August 2025, 50 (2): 17-28
Copyright 2025, Crop Science Society of the Philippines
<https://doi.org/10.45988/pjcs.v50i2.1528>

Full Paper

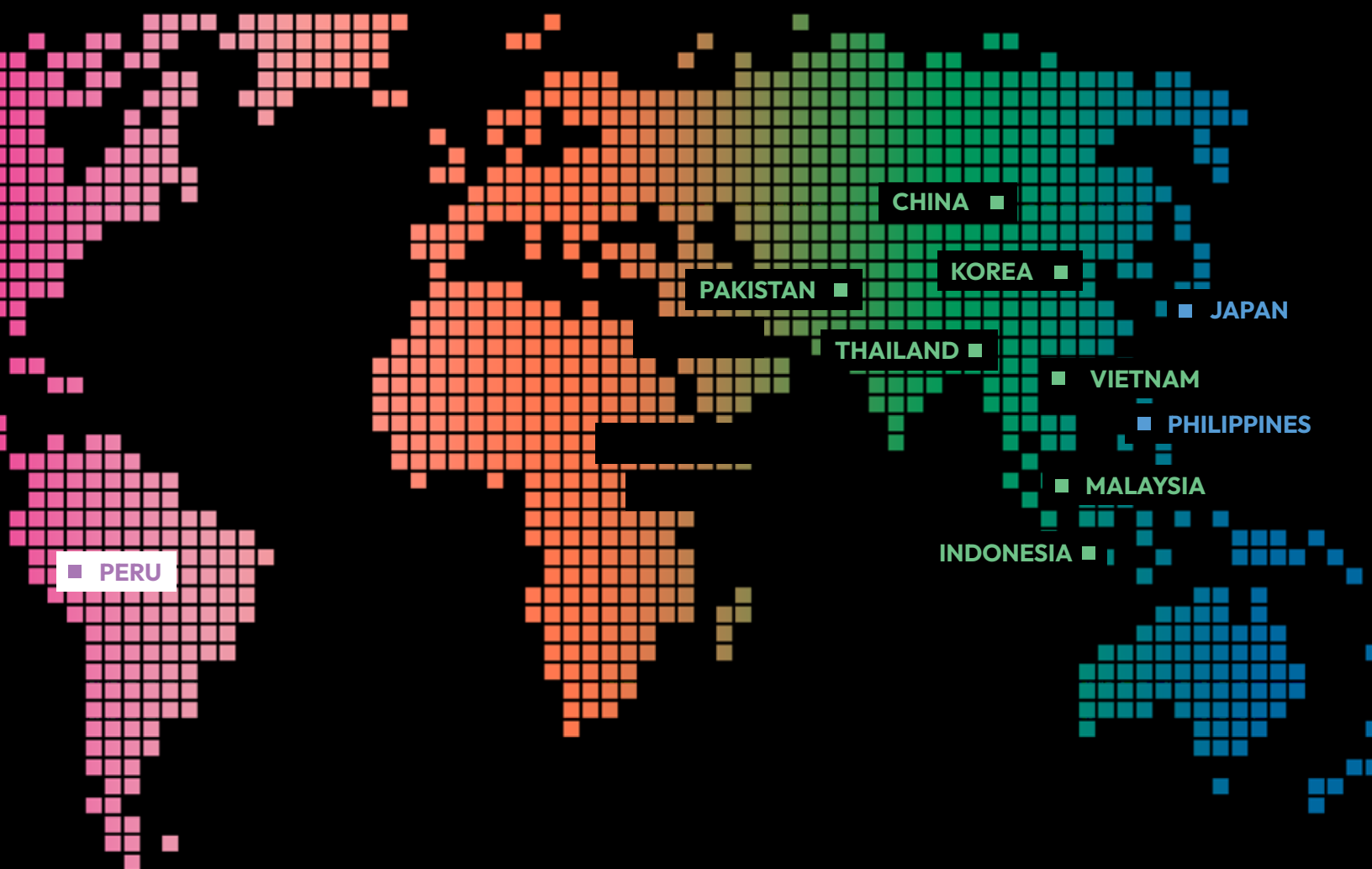
A 24-Year Longitudinal Analysis (2000-2023) of Philippine Media Coverage of Agri-Biotechnology

Kristine Grace N. Tome*, Jarline Cyren A. Escasura, Clement S. Dionglay, and Rhodora Romero-Aldenita
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The media impacts public understanding of technology and motivates opinions on a number of controversial topics. To understand the media representation of modern biotechnology in the Philippines, a 24-year (2000-2023) longitudinal analysis was conducted covering 2,525 articles from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, and BusinessMirror. Results of previous analyses (2000-2008 and 2010-2016) were compared with the latest analysis that covered 286 articles from 2017 to 2023, particularly on the following variables: article type, section, topic and focus, source of information, framing category, keyword, and metaphors used, and tone of articles. Chi-Square Tests of Independence, Fisher's Exact Test, and Correspondence Analysis were used to examine the associations between various categorical variables in the 2017-2023 analysis, and trends of news coverage on agricultural biotechnology in four major Philippine newspapers were identified. The government has remained the top source of information cited in the articles since 2000. Public accountability/governance and social progress/economic development have continued as the top two frames used by the writers over the years. Genetic modification and biotechnology remained as major keywords used to refer to the technology since 2000. The use of fear-based metaphors has declined over the years. Articles from the Philippine Daily Inquirer shifted from generally negative to mostly neutral, while the articles from other newspapers were predominantly positive in the latter years. Of the four newspapers, BusinessMirror

ISAAA NETWORK

The ISAAA Network of Biotechnology Information Centers drives public awareness of crop biotechnology while addressing targeted information needs. The network monitors local agri-biotech environments and adapts ISAAA resources for regional audiences.



ISAAA *AfriCenter*

The year 2025 was both dynamic and productive for ISAAA *AfriCenter* as we intensified our efforts to advance an enabling environment for agricultural transformation and promote a healthier planet for future generations. Our work remained aligned with the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In collaboration with our partners, we strengthened evidence-based governance, amplified African scientific voices, restored public trust in innovation, and deepened community engagement across food, health, and environmental systems. These collective efforts translated into meaningful progress across multiple fronts.

A major milestone was our contribution to shaping Africa's research and innovation ecosystem through leadership in the development of Kenya's first coordinated National Masterplan for Research Financing and Capacity Strengthening (2026–2036). We also supported stronger One Health leadership and governance through stakeholder net-mapping, regional peer learning, leadership training, theory-of-change development, decolonization dialogues and strategic media engagement.

Recognizing the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation targeting science-based innovations, we prioritized building resilience among key stakeholders. Government advisory bodies, scientists, communicators and other actors were equipped with misinformation-sensing skills to safeguard evidence-based policymaking in agriculture, health, and environmental sectors. A highlight of this effort was the Africa Biennial Biosciences Communication Symposium (ABBC 2025) held in Lusaka, Zambia, an event that convened 150 delegates from 21 countries.

We also strengthened the policy environment for science through BiotechAfrica, an open-access continental resource curating biosafety policies, regulatory status, and biotechnology product pipelines across Africa.

At the community level, our grassroots engagement initiatives increased knowledge and confidence in agricultural innovations by empowering communities with information on best agricultural practices. Through our monthly e-newsletter, *The DrumBeat*, complemented by the Africa Science Dialogue podcast and webinar series, we reached more than 100,000 people.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners and stakeholders across Africa and beyond for their continued support and shared commitment.

Dr. Margaret Karembu, MBS
Director, ISAAA *AfriCenter*
Chair, Africa Science Dialogue



KEY IMPACTS

Strengthened Africa's Research and Innovation Ecosystem.

ISAAA AfriCenter, in partnership with the National Research Fund, played a leading role in shaping Kenya's first coordinated National Masterplan for Research Financing and Capacity Strengthening (2026-2036). Developed through a nationwide consultative process involving over 1,000 stakeholders, the policy-aligned Masterplan lays the foundation for sustainable and coordinated research financing in Kenya.



Empowered 170 farmers in mastitis control and milk quality management.

The Center translated digital innovation into tangible impact for farmers through the Goats Offering AMR/AMU Teaching (GOAT) mobile application. Over 170 dairy goat farmers in central Kenya were onboarded onto the platform, strengthening mastitis surveillance, responsible antibiotic use, and real-time linkage to paraveterinarians and diagnostic services.



Advanced evidence for policy and investment in agri-biotech through digital initiatives.

The Center launched BiotechAfrica, an open-access continental resource that systematically curates biosafety policies, regulatory status, and biotech product pipelines across African countries. By providing real-time regulatory clarity, the platform de-risks private-sector investment, strengthens transparency, and accelerates Africa's biotechnology competitiveness.



Solidified One Health (OH) governance across Africa.

Across six African countries, the initiative strengthened One Health leadership and governance through stakeholder net mapping, leadership training, and theory-of-change design. Monthly cross-country webinars and collaborative workshops enhanced accountability frameworks for seven country teams, ensuring initiatives are driven by measurable outcomes and sustainability logic. At the Africa Biennial Biosciences Communication (ABBC) symposium, training sessions challenged structural barriers by emphasizing the integration of indigenous knowledge systems within environmental and health governance.



Enhanced public confidence in agri-biotechnology.

Amid rapidly increasing misinformation and disinformation, we significantly strengthened science communication on agri-biotechnology. Through targeted county-level misinformation sensing trainings and national media science café, county leaders, university faculty, early-career professionals, nutritionists, journalists, and editors were equipped with critical skills to promote accurate, evidence-based conversations. A National Dialogue on GM Foods and Planetary Health saw the Government of Kenya reaffirm its commitment to advancing biotech crops as part of its national food security strategy.



Amplified Africa's voice in global biosafety and biotechnology conversations.

Africa's regulatory leadership took center stage at the 17th International Society for Biosafety Research (17-ISBR) and the 6th International Workshop on Regulatory Approaches for Agricultural Applications of Animal Biotechnologies (6-IWRAAAB) in Ghent, Belgium. African regulators and scientists showcased the continent's rapidly maturing, science-based biosafety and genome editing policy frameworks. Regulators signaled a clear continental shift toward risk-proportionate, increasingly harmonized regulatory pathways for genome-edited animals, positioning Africa among global leaders in animal biotechnology governance.



Guarded science against misinformation and disinformation.

The ABBC 2025, held in Lusaka, Zambia, catered to 150 participants from 21 countries, including researchers, regulators, policymakers, farmers, communicators, community leaders, private sector actors, and early-career scientists. ABBC 2025 culminated in a continental declaration committing stakeholders to institutionalize science communication as a core function of governance. ABBC 2027 will be held in Senegal. Contact the Secretariat at abbsecretariat@isaaa.org.



Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC)



Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan, Executive Director of the MABIC, was appointed by the World Agriculture Forum as Country Director for Malaysia starting 1 January 2026. This honorary appointment



recognizes her credibility and longstanding commitment to advancing agriculture, food systems, and sustainable development.

In this role, she serves as Malaysia's national anchor for WAF, bridging its global vision with country-level action. She leads the WAF Country Council, represents WAF to government and key stakeholders, and advances policy dialogue, innovation, sustainability, farmer-centric initiatives, and partnerships in alignment with WAF's global priorities to strengthen agricultural development. This is a recognition of MABIC and ISAAA.

The Petri Dish is evolving into a next-generation regional science portal, with a new website scheduled for launch in the first quarter of 2027. As a regional platform, *The Petri Dish* will foster collaboration and cooperation to support technology transfer, commercialization, harmonization of policies and regulations, and talent development across ASEAN.

As Asia continues to emerge as a global economic and innovation powerhouse, *The Petri Dish* aims to strengthen regional connectivity, elevate scientific visibility, and position ASEAN research and innovation more prominently on the international stage. The Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre welcomes partners, collaborators, and sponsors to join this initiative and support the growth of a stronger regional science ecosystem.



Biotechnology Alliance Association (Thailand)

The *Genome Editing in Plant Breeding* exhibition at the Thailand Research Expo 2025 attracted 304 visitors, averaging 61 per day. Attendees included students, academics, and farmers, mostly holding or pursuing bachelor's degrees (35.53%), with an average age of 41. While 100% of visitors supported genome editing in plant breeding, some asked about food safety, long-term impacts, contamination of native crops, and environmental risks. Key questions focused on consumer health, chemical reduction rates, quality-of-life improvements, and potential negative traits. Overall, the event highlighted strong public interest alongside critical curiosity about biotechnology's future.



Pakistan Biotechnology Information Center (PABIC)

The four-week 2025 COMSTECH-PABIC-ICCBS Winter Internship Program for Youth concluded on January 14, 2026. Funded by OIC-COMSTECH and led by Prof. Dr. Sammer Yousuf (PABIC Coordinator, ICCBS), the project aimed to raise awareness and foster collaboration in modern biotechnology across OIC member states. The program hosted 34 BS/MS students from seven Pakistani universities across various ICCBS laboratories. At the conclusion, H.E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTECH, urged interns to embrace the ethics of life and science.



WAY FORWARD

As we look back on the milestones of the past year, it is clear that the global agri-biotech landscape is at a critical turning point. The dual challenges of climate volatility and rising food insecurity require more than just technological breakthroughs—they demand a steadfast commitment to driving informed discussion and responsible adoption.

ISAAA's role has always extended beyond the mere tracking of biotech crop adoption rates; we serve as a vital bridge between scientific innovation and societal acceptance. This year's progress underscores that when stakeholders have access to transparent, peer-reviewed, and easily digestible data, the conversation shifts from apprehension to evidence-based optimism.

Moving forward, our mission relies on three interconnected pillars that transform innovation into impact. First, we must empower through evidence: by synthesizing complex agricultural biotechnology into accessible knowledge, we dismantle

misinformation and equip farmers, policymakers, and consumers to make science-based decisions. However, true progress cannot exist without safety and equity, which is why we must continually uphold ethical frameworks by championing robust biosafety regulations, ensuring that life-changing innovations reach smallholder farmers, and ensuring stewardship compliance. Finally, because the challenges facing global food systems inherently cross borders, fostering global collaboration through continuous, inclusive partnerships across science, government, and civil society remains essential to truly elevating the dialogue.

Ultimately, biotechnology is a powerful tool, but its true efficacy relies on trust and stewardship. As ISAAA enters its next chapter, we remain dedicated to anchoring the global agri-biotech dialogue in facts, safety, and sustainability, ensuring that today's innovations become equitable solutions for a food-secure tomorrow.



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