

THEMATIC CONCEPT NOTE:

TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRY AND BIODIVERSITY

Technological (including biotechnological) and industrial developments have an impact on biodiversity conservation and use. While various kinds of technology have contributed to the conservation or enhancement of biodiversity, others have had an adverse effect. Industrialisation over the last few centuries in particular, with its thrust towards using biological resources as raw material, or its 'side-effects' such as effluents, has been destructive of biodiversity. The worldwide emphasis today is to develop environmentally and socially sound technology, which means the development/application/use of technology, and industrial processes, that do not cause irreversible damage to the environment, and are socially equitable.

The thematic group on technology, industry and biodiversity should deal with the following:

- Assessment of the impact of various kinds of technological and industrial developments on biodiversity (including a brief historical assessment);
- Comparison of 'traditional' and 'modern' technologies vis-à-vis biodiversity concerns;
- In particular, assessment of the impact of conventional and new biotechnologies on conservation and sustainable/equitable use of biodiversity;
- Identification of areas where technologies are required for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and of the environmentally sound technologies that can help achieve these aims; *Creation of new models of corporate(private and public) sector development that use such technologies which take into account long-term costs and benefits of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.*
- Status of such technologies and of R&D in their development;
- Status of capabilities of the government, *corporate*, NGO, and community institutions for technology development in the identified areas;
- Capacity building requirements for indigenous technology development in the aforesaid areas;
- Assessment of existing technology transfer mechanisms and recommendations to make them more effective (both within the country and internationally) from the conservation and sustainable/equitable use point of view;
- Identification of measures needed to ensure that technologies (including biotechnologies) with potentially adverse impacts on biodiversity are not developed, and where they already exist, are strictly regulated to avoid any harmful consequences;
- Assessment of impact of international agreements on the above issues;
- Delineation of measures (short and long term) needed to harmonise biodiversity concerns with industrial and technological processes, including better linkages amongst various industrial sectors, science and technology institutions (traditional and modern), local communities and innovators, activists, and others;
- Prioritisation of all the above measures in terms of their importance and immediacy;
- Identification of the resources (human, institutional, and economic) needed to carry out these measures.
- *Identification of ways and means of sharing knowledge and skills with neighbouring and other countries, including technical and scientific cooperation, exchange of indigenous knowledge keeping in mind ethical concerns, and training assistance. A special focus would be on how to avoid duplication of efforts and achieve optimisation of resources (especially at the regional level).*

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TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRY AND BIODIVERSITY

Technological (including biotechnological) and industrial developments have an impact on biodiversity conservation and use. While various kinds of technology have contributed to the conservation or enhancement of biodiversity, others have had an adverse effect. Industrialisation over the last few centuries in particular, with its thrust towards exploiting biological resources as raw material by overruling local community management systems more attuned to sustainable use, or its 'side-effects' such as effluents, has been destructive of biodiversity. The worldwide emphasis today is to develop environmentally and socially sound technology, which means the development/application/use of technology, and industrial processes, that do not cause irreversible damage to the environment, and are socially equitable.

The thematic group on technology, industry and biodiversity should deal with the following:

- Assessment of the impact of various kinds of technological and industrial developments on biodiversity (including a brief historical assessment also covering changes in institutional arrangements accompanying technological change);
- Comparison of 'traditional' and 'modern' technologies vis-à-vis biodiversity concerns;
- In particular, assessment of the impact of conventional and new biotechnologies on conservation and sustainable/equitable use of biodiversity;
- Identification of areas where technologies are required for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and of the environmentally sound technologies that can help achieve these aims including the institutional changes required for the same; Creation of new models of corporate(private and public) sector development that use such technologies which take into account long-term costs and benefits and their equitable distribution of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- Status of such technologies and of R&D in their development;
- Status of capabilities of the government, corporate, NGO, and community institutions for technology development in the identified areas;
- Capacity building requirements for indigenous technology development in the aforesaid areas;
- Assessment of existing technology transfer mechanisms and recommendations to make them more effective (both within the country and internationally) from the conservation and sustainable gender sensitive and equitable use point of view;
- Identification of measures needed to ensure that technologies (including biotechnologies) with potentially adverse impacts on biodiversity are not developed, and where they already exist, are strictly regulated to avoid any harmful consequences;
- Assessment of impact of international agreements on the above issues;
- Delineation of measures (short and long term) needed to harmonise biodiversity concerns in a gender and equity sensitive manner with industrial and technological processes, including better linkages amongst various industrial sectors, science and technology institutions (traditional and modern), local communities and innovators, activists, and others;
- Prioritisation of all the above measures in terms of their importance and immediacy;
- Identification of the resources (human, institutional, and economic) needed to carry out these measures.

Identification of ways and means of sharing knowledge and skills with neighbouring and other countries, including technical and scientific cooperation, exchange of indigenous knowledge keeping in mind ethical concerns, and training assistance. A special focus would be on how to avoid duplication of efforts and achieve optimisation of resources (especially at the regional level).

- research and innovation
- undertaking specialised technical assessments and referrals

WE WILL FURTHER OUR INVOLVEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE, ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES BY:

- shifting to a proactive stance on issues
- identifying new ways in which staff and service users can become more involved in awareness-raising and advocacy activities
- developing systems for information dissemination
- developing and implementing an advocacy curriculum for our service users

WE WILL MEASURE AND ENHANCE THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK BY:

- establishing quality standards for programmes
- developing tools for impact evaluation of programmes
- deputing an external agency to conduct organisational evaluations

How will we implement our strategic plan and measure progress?

Programme managers (co-ordinator) will, in consultation with their teams, prepare an annual operational plan with budgeted and prioritised objectives tightly linked to our strategic objectives. Annual progress towards a programme's operational objectives will be measured against timed targets.

A programme's operational plan and progress towards meeting its targets will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team and consolidated into a single organisational operational plan. This will be presented to the Governing Body for approval before the beginning of the following financial year.

Progress towards our strategic objectives will be published in SSNI's annual report and made widely available over the five-year period.

How will we resource our strategic plan?

Our resources fall into two broad categories, financial and human.