FP7 - COOPERATION - THEME 2

FP7 projects with India in the area of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology research

Biotechnologies, Agriculture, Food
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With the world population approaching 9 billion by 2050 and natural resources finite, Europe needs renewable biological resources for secure and healthy food and feed, as well as for materials, energy, and other products. In order to reduce the heavy dependency of its economy on fossil resources and mitigating climate change, Europe needs to move towards a post-petroleum society.

In this context, the Theme of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (FAFB) of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), aims to create a strong and competitive bioeconomy and to offer solutions to challenges facing Europe and the world, such as feeding a growing world population and fighting climate change while mitigating its effects.

International cooperation between Member States and Third Countries is an important aspect of FP7 and an integral part of the FAFB Theme. Cooperation with participants from Third Countries is encouraged across all the relevant research areas.

This catalogue describes all projects funded under the FP7 during 5 years (2007-2012) with participants from India. These projects bring together science, industry and other stakeholders to exploit new and emerging research opportunities in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, food, health, well-being and biotechnology.
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ACTIVITY 2.1 - SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION: AGRICULTURE

KBBE-2-1-2 Increased sustainability of all productions systems (agriculture, forestry); plant health and crop protection

BENWOOD

Coordination Actions in Support Of Sustainable And Eco-Efficient Short Rotation Forestry In CDM Countries

The project first assesses the state of the art of SRF as a biofuel source in CDM and JI countries (WP1) focuses on CDM countries (WP2) and links the project to current European and non-European R&D-activities in the area (WP3).

Main outputs:
1) SRF guidelines and standards for land use management (WP4) for farmers and European JI/CDM project developers as well as stakeholders from the energy and biomass sector (electric utilities, pulp & paper, fibreboard etc.)
2) a SRF R&D agenda (WP5) for researchers and industry (boiler, oven, chipper, press producers etc.)
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND BIOTECHNOLOGIES

ACTIVITY 2.1 - SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION: AGRICULTURE

KBBE-2-1-3 Optimised animal health production and welfare across agriculture

FMD-DISCONVAC

Development, enhancement and complementation of animal-sparing, foot-and-mouth disease vaccine-based control strategies for free and endemic regions

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is one of the world’s most infectious diseases of livestock and continues to pose a significant threat to endemic and free regions alike. The impact of FMD on society and international trade is high, thereby demanding stringent prevention, surveillance and control plans taken up in crisis preparedness plans. On the other hand, there is a global increased demand for animal welfare and ethical considerations necessitating a decreased reliance on eradication of animals to control FMD virus (FMDV) spread, and on the use of animals for the regulatory testing of veterinary products.

The project seeks to balance these apparently contracting viewpoints by addressing specific gaps in our knowledge on all aspects of FMD control to enable implementation of enhanced animal-sparing vaccine-based control strategies tailored to the needs of free and endemic settings. Consequently, four main objectives have been identified, including (i) the improvement of the quality of existing FMD vaccines and diagnostics, (ii) the refinement and replacement of in vivo FMD vaccine quality tests, (iii) the development of new generation FMD vaccines and diagnostics by applying cutting edge technologies, and (iv) the enhancement of our knowledge on FMDV spread and transmission following the use of high-potency monovalent or multivalent vaccines. The role of wildlife (buffalo, gazelles and wild boar) in FMDV maintenance and transmission will also be investigated.

The project consists of seven different, yet interlinked, work packages (WP) each addressing one of the items listed in the Work Programme topic KBBE-2008-1-3-02, and led by renowned WP leaders with years of relevant experience in the field of FMD. As such, significant progress towards the objectives of the Community’s Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013), the European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health, and the Global Roadmap for improving the Tools to Control FMD in Endemic Settings will be achieved.
Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses

Animal diseases can cause serious social, economic and environmental damage and in some cases also threaten human health. An increasing number of the major disease problems or threats faced by the livestock industry and zoonoses are of a global nature. The overall aim of the global strategic alliances for the coordination of research on the major infectious diseases of animals is to improve coordination of research activities on the major infectious diseases of livestock and zoonoses so as to hasten the delivery of improved control methods. This will be achieved through the establishment of an international forum of R&D programme owners/managers and international organisations for the purpose of sharing information, improving collaboration on research activities and working towards common research agendas and coordinated research funding on the major animal diseases affecting livestock production and/or human health. It will build on the groundwork established by the SCAR collaborative working group on animal health and welfare research, the EMIDA ERA-NET project and specific INCO-NETs involving partner countries. The scope of the project will include co-ordination of research relevant to emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock, including fish and managed bees, and those infections of livestock that may carry the risk of disease threat to human health. Diseases of wildlife will also be considered where they are identified as reservoirs of infection with emerging and major infectious diseases of humans or production animals.

These objectives will be delivered through the following five workpackages: WP1. Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination; WP2. Sharing information on existing research programmes; WP3. Analysis of and responding to global, regional and industry sector priorities; WP4. Networking of ongoing research activities on major issues and WP5. Developing a strategic trans-national animal health research agendas.
Assessment of the impacts of non-tariff measures - NTM on the competitiveness of the EU and selected trade partners

The overall objective of the project is to collect and analyze new data on non-tariff measures (NTMs), particularly on governmental standards and regulations that prescribe the conditions for importing agri-food products into the EU market and into the markets of the main competing players. Furthermore, impacts from EU NTMs on least developing country (LDC) exports are examined.

The project will deliver the following results:
1. An analytical framework for defining measures, methods, products and countries.
2. A database on NTMs in EU, USA, Canada, Japan, China, India, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Russia and New Zealand.
3. Comparative analyses on the impact of NTMs on agri-food trade of the EU.
4. Policy recommendations from case studies for quantifying NTMs on fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy trade clusters with the EU.
5. Policy recommendations from case studies on the impacts of EU private and public standards in LDCs.
6. Dissemination of project results to key stakeholders.

This will be achieved:
A. By optimizing complementarities of the project with ongoing NTM research on the TRAINS data base at UNCTAD.
B. By organizing the research work in research, database, management and dissemination work packages.
C. By developing research methodologies that are innovative and robust, optimizing the direct usefulness of the end results for the end users.
D. By proposing a partner consortium that together reunites the relevant needs, for:
   • Scientific excellence and international project experience
   • Appropriate geographic coverage to collect the required data in all countries
   • Linkages and complementarities with ongoing international NTM analyses (UNCTAD, OECD, World Bank, IFPRI)
   • Policy contacts, dialogue and influence
   • Efficient and effective project management
E. With a budget of 326.5 person months, 2.3 M€ EC request, for 18 partners, over 28 months.
Public Perception of Genetically modified Animals - Science, Utility and Society

PEGASUS aims to provide policy support regarding the development, implementation and commercialisation of GM animals, and derivative foods. The results will contribute to the FP7 KBBE by integrating existing social, (including existing public perception) environmental and economic knowledge regarding GM animals. The use of GM in farmed animals (aquatic and terrestrial) will be reviewed. A foresight exercise will be conducted to predict future developments. Two case studies (1 aquatic, 1 terrestrial) will be applied to identify the pro’s and con’s of GM animals from the perspectives of the production chain (economics, agri-food sector) and the life sciences (human and animal health, environmental impact, animal welfare, sustainable production). Ethical and policy concerns will be refined through application of combined ethical matrix and policy workshops involving EU and non-EU stakeholders. The case studies will be used to demonstrate best practice in public engagement in the policy process. The activities will provide European policy support regarding GM animals and the foods derived from them, taking into account public perceptions, the competitiveness of EU animal production, and risk-benefit assessment linked with human and animal health, environmental impact, and sustainable production. A final stakeholder dissemination workshop will disseminate the results to the EU policy community.
Trade, Agricultural Policies and Structural Changes in India’s Agrifood System; Implications for National and Global Markets

The project offers a qualitative and quantitative analysis of future developments in Indian supply, demand and trade for the main agricultural commodities as well as developments in the food value chain. Working tools are improved and used to evaluate the impact of trade and agricultural policies, structural changes on the Indian agrifood system as well as on world markets.

More specifically, the project will include the following actions:

- Design of an analytical framework for the analysis of future trade and agricultural policy developments (including trade agreements) on supply, demand and trade for the main agricultural commodities in India. Initial suggestions for analysis are cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, cotton, sugar, dairy, meat and fish, fruits and vegetables.

- Identify the key processes of change in the Indian and global economy and their impacts on the agrifood sector of India. This serves as a basis for understanding future trends.

- Update, test and improve modelling tools and value chain analysis that will be used as building blocks in this project.

- Define indicators and develop databases for understanding and forecasting the impacts of policies on future developments of agriculture in India up to 2020. This will be done at regional and national levels, taking into account international trade.

- Implementation of tools to simulate the impacts of domestic and international trade policy changes and structural changes in the agrifood sector on the Indian agricultural sectors as well as on world markets, with a specific focus on the EU.

- Dissemination of our findings and interaction with the research and policy community, as well as the key stakeholders in the agrifood sector, both in India and the EU.
ACTIVITY 2.1  SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION: FISHERIES and AQUACULTURE
Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition

Aquaculture is widely considered as important for enhancing food security, alleviating poverty and improving nutrition. However, little information is available concerning the direct and indirect impacts of aquaculture on food security and poverty alleviation in most developing countries and LIFDCs. Strengthening the knowledge base surrounding aquaculture and food and nutrition security through this project will provide the evidence upon which sound resource allocation and strategies can be based, and subsequently plan, implement and coordinate efficiently development and research programmes supporting the sustainable expansion of aquaculture and increasing its impact to food security and poverty alleviation. The project is to be implemented by 18 partners in 11 selected LIFDCs, 3 EU partners, and 3 international organizations. The project will strengthen the knowledge base on food security and poverty and develop new methodologies or more rigorous methodologies to quantify the contribution of aquaculture in combating hunger and poverty in developing countries and LIFDCs. This will endeavour to better understand aquaculture’s contribution to human development. Project partner countries were selected based on varied human development conditions and national level efforts in including aquaculture for improving national food security and alleviating poverty. They represent all major aquaculture regions and ICPCs where aquaculture has major contributions to national economy involve high numbers of small-scale aquaculture farms, and with high international trade of fish and fishery products. The results of the project will be brought to the attention of countries and development partners, particularly the EU, and outputs will help LIFDCs and various development partners to improve efficiency and coordination in development initiatives focused on aquaculture as a means of promoting food security and poverty alleviation.
ACTIVITY 2.2  FOOD, HEALTH and WELL-BEING
Novel staple food-based strategies to improve micronutrient status for better health and development in sub-Saharan Africa

This project aims to identify novel staple food-based approaches to improve micronutrient malnutrition in order to improve the health and development of women and children in sub-Saharan Africa. It will focus on the improvement of millet-, sorghum-, maize-, and cassava based (complementary) foods. The genetic potential of staple foods for increasing their micronutrient and decreasing their anti-nutrient content will be evaluated. The success or failure of introducing such bio-fortified staple foods in local farming systems will be assessed. The efficacy of bio-fortified staple foods with adequate levels of provitamin A will be determined.

The project will develop improved (traditional) processing methods of the staple foods concerned to enhance micronutrient uptake and bioavailability. The developed approaches in the area of bio-fortification, fortification and processing will be compared on efficacy of improving iron and zinc intake and status. The effect of the improved staple foods on immunity and infection will be evaluated as well as the impact on cognitive development of young children.

The project will improve the quality of the staple foods (maize, millet and cassava) consumed in many rural areas of Africa. Although millet is actually the sixth most important crop in the world, it is still only grown by small, impoverished farmers. Three different strategic approaches will result in production of foods with improved nutritional quality. First, varieties of the above crops that naturally contain higher levels of vitamins and minerals will be identified. These include a cassava variety with a natural higher level of vitamin A. Research will show whether consumption of this so-called ‘yellow’ cassava actually results in improved vitamin A status of children. As a second strategy, the benefits of enriching products made from staple foods with leafy vegetables will be studied. These include maize meal, a staple ingredient for many meals in Africa. The third strategy will show whether the levels of available iron, zinc or vitamin A can be improved with specific preparation methods.
P I A S T R Y  
A C T I V I T Y  2 . 2  –  F O O D ,  H E A L T H  a n d  W E L L - B E I N G  
KBBE-2-2-5 Environmental Impacts and Total food Chain

SECUREFISH

Improving food security by reducing post harvest losses in the fisheries sector

Food security is a major concern for all countries in the face of population increase and diminishing energy and water supplies. Over one billion people in low and middle income countries suffer from malnutrition. To meet the UN Millennium Development Goals to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, it is essential to reduce post harvest losses, including in the fisheries sector. The overall objectives of SECUREFISH are to strengthen capacity in low cost technology; to improve the preservation of existing fish supplies; to utilise waste and bycatch to produce value-added products; to develop an integrated quality management tool and finally to test the developed technology and quality management tool in real conditions different third countries.

There are six work packages (WP). WP1 will ensure the efficient management of the project. WP2 will develop low cost innovative processing tools based on traditional technology for preserving fish including a solar tunnel drier, a modified solar assisted extruder and fast freezing/continuous atmosphere freeze-drier (CAFD). In WP3, underutilised bycatch and waste by-products of fish processing will be recovered and converted to high value products. WP4 will develop an effective total quality management tool (safety and risk assessment; HACCP quality cost and traceability, nutritional and eating quality and carbon footprint) of three fish product chains (solar dried, extruded and frozen/CAFD) which will be tailored to suit local needs. The technological advances (WP2) and quality management tool (WP4) will be evaluated in the three fish product chain case studies in Africa (Kenya, Namibia, Ghana), Asia (India and Malaysia) and Latin America (Argentina) to include different economic, cultural and social conditions. The case studies involve stakeholders including SMEs to ensure sustained implementation of project results. WP6 details a strategy for education, training and dissemination to widely promote the results and guidelines.

KBBE-2011-2-5-02

Reducing post-harvest losses for increased food security — SICA

www.securefish.net
**Impact of climate change and globalisation on safety of fresh produce – governing a supply chain of uncompromised food sovereignty**

VEG-I-TRADE will develop problem solving technologies leading to safe food products. It will investigate aspects of water quality and water treatment, horticultural production practices, disinfection treatment and packaging technologies. The importance and implementation of these control measures will be evaluated in collaboration with SMEs and larger industrial partners. Baseline studies on the hazards, intervention technologies and best practices in the fresh produce chain will provide input for both microbial and chemical risk assessment. Results will be used to support risk-based sampling plans, evaluating the risks of newly identified threats as affected by the global trade system and anticipated.

The safety of food becomes more of a problem as the breath of supply sources increase from the local, to the national and then the international scale. Procedures developed by this project should help mitigate such problems. It should answer questions concerning the type of monitoring required, the methods to be used and the place where this should take place. Control measures of a managerial and technological nature will be developed in the supply chain of crop production, post-harvest processing and logistics to minimize food safety risks. The assessment of the performance of horticultural safety management systems by a novel diagnostic instrument at EU level exemplified by several countries in Europe and tailored on a global level including major EU trade partners from various climate zones will be developed. The project will establish a discussion forum for stakeholders in the global food chain covering issues of acceptable risk, sustainability of fresh produce production and long term strategy for international food trade, while making no compromise in food safety for European consumers while respecting food sovereignty. Risk communication to increase awareness of trade partners’ production systems and uneven consumer behaviour will provide key information for prioritisation of risk management strategies for the producers. It should answer questions concerning the type of monitoring required, the methods to be used and the place where this should take place. It should also alert the various authorities involved to actions that may need to be taken to reduce risks.
OPTIMA will integrate an ambitious biology system approach for perennial grasses such as switchgrass, miscanthus and giant reed in the Mediterranean environment. Moreover the perennial species cardoon, which has been proven to be particularly adapted to the Mediterranean climate, will be used as a control species.

The main objective of the OPTIMA project is to identify high-yielding perennial grasses for the Mediterranean area, within optimized production chain that will provide stable source for both biomass and new plant derived bio-products. OPTIMA will explore the potentialities of perennial grasses on underutilized or abandoned marginal lands.

An interdisciplinary approach involving physiology, biotechnology, and agronomy, socio-economical and environmental analysis at different scale levels will be undertaken with the aim at tackling specific bottlenecks of perennial grasses in the Mediterranean area and to create alternative end-use chains. OPTIMA approach has been to link the research proposed here by including industrial end-users in the project. This should allow the output of this research to develop in a commercial context as rapidly as possible the new findings.

The major goals of this multidisciplinary network are to evaluate the existing genotypes; to characterize and deliver novel species; to deliver sustainable crop management practices (sowing/planting strategies to reduce the use of pesticide and increase biomass on the first year establishment, cultivation under salinity conditions and/or water deficit, reducing losses during harvest); to evaluate the industrial production of bioenergy and added value bio-products; to assess the environmental impact through an integrated assessment of sustainability criteria, to disseminate the achieved findings at different level (local, regional, national, international).

Perennial grasses: optimising biomass production – SICA

**OPTIMA**

**FP7-KBBE-2011-5**

Optimization of Perennial Grasses for Biomass Production

www.optimafp7.eu
Jatropha curcas – breeding strategy – towards a sustainable crop for biomaterials and biofuels – SICA (India and/or African ACP and/or Latin America)

Jatropha curcas shows a big promise towards sustainable and affordable biofuels. Several groups are working independently towards development of both agrosystems and high quality germplasm of Jatropha, and downstream processing and biodiesel markets. The challenges are to make the big promises come true: high oil yield, low competition with food crops, use in various agrosystems from monoculture plantations, to mixed cropping and use in hedges around agricultural fields. JATROPT aims at linking high quality research groups and companies that are now operating in different continents in order to achieve a large synergy in research and development of jatropha as a biofuel crop. In five Workpackages (Breeding, Genetic tools, Sustainable Agrosystems, Demonstrating and Dissemination), the following aims are pursued:

1) Achieve a world wide germplasm collection of Jatropha curcas, molecularly characterised in order to classify the collection into groups with similar genetic backgrounds; evaluation of elite germplasm of this collection in Asia, Africa and Latin-America; linking segregating population based on parents from different parts of the world and creating a global Jatropha linkage map.

2) Develop genetic information and marker tools (genetics of toxic/low toxic trait, branching patterns, disease resistance) to speed up the breeding process.

3) Develop agrosystems that yield sustainable and affordable biofuels - and interesting uses of the co-products (biomass/protein residues after oil extraction), with a focus on Pro Poor development and on designing systems in which competition for food and fuel can be minimised;

4) Demonstration of the potential of local/regional use of produced biofuels to increase agricultural and general economic productivity will be investigated.

5) Achieve dissemination of knowledge on quality of germplasm, on genetics and sustainable agrosystems setting up distribution of combined packages of agronomic guidelines and germplasm.
Sweet sorghum – An alternative energy crop for biofuel production in semi-arid and temperate regions – SICA (Latin America, South Africa, India)

Increasing world market prices for fossil fuels, driven by limited reserves, growing demand and instability in producing regions, now render renewable fuels economical. Such fuels are also a pathway to reducing GHG emissions and mitigating climate change. Bio-ethanol from crop plants is a promising, partial solution to sustainably satisfy the energy demand for road transport while respecting food security. The success of bio-ethanol from sugarcane in Brazil demonstrates proof of concept but cannot be transferred to water-limited or temperate environments. Sweet sorghum, as a source of either fermentable free sugars or lignocellulosics, has many potential advantages, including: high water, nitrogen and radiation use efficiency; broad agro-ecological adaptation; rich genetic diversity for useful traits; and the potential to produce fuel feedstock, food and feed in various combinations. Fuel-food crops can thereby help reconciling energy and food security issues. This project will breed for improved cultivars and hybrids of sorghum for temperate, tropical semi-arid and tropical acid-soil environments by pyramiding in various combinations, depending on region and ideotype, tolerance to cold, drought and acid (Al-toxic) soils; and high production of stalk sugars, easily digestible biomass and grain (WP 1-3). Molecular-genetic and physiological breeding support is given by WP4, and agro-ecological adaptation and sustainable practices are developed by WP5. Other WPs (6, 7, 8) provide for integrated technology and impact assessments including economics, dissemination and coordination.

The Consortium is composed of 10 members from France (leader), Italy, Germany, Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa, including a seed company. Research involves structured participation of stakeholders, including policy makers. Project outcomes will be new germplasm, sustainable practices and commodity chain concepts adapted to each target region. The duration of the project is 5 years.
Novel marine bioactive compounds for European industries

Biodiversity in the seas is only partly explored, although marine organisms are excellent sources for many industrial products. Through close co-operation between industrial and academic partners, the MAREX project will collect, isolate and classify marine organisms, such as micro- and macroalgae, cyanobacteria, sea anemones, tunicates and fish from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as from the Mediterranean, Baltic and Arabian Seas. Extracts and purified compounds of these organisms will be studied for several therapeutically and industrially significant biological activities, including anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antiviral and anticoagulant activities by applying a wide variety of screening tools, as well as for ion channel/receptor modulation and plant growth regulation. Chromatographic isolation of bioactive compounds will be followed by structural determination. Sustainable cultivation methods for promising organisms, and biotechnological processes for selected compounds will be developed, as well as biosensors for monitoring the target compounds. The work will entail sustainable organic synthesis of selected active compounds and new derivatives, and development of selected hits to lead compounds. The project will expand marine compound libraries. MAREX innovations will be targeted for industrial product development in order to improve the growth and productivity of European marine biotechnology. MAREX aims at a better understanding of environmentally conscious sourcing of marine biotechnology products and increased public awareness of marine biodiversity and its potential. Finally, MAREX is expected to offer novel marine-based lead compounds for European industries and strengthen their product portfolios related to pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetic, agrochemical, food processing, material and biosensor applications.
The focus of APROPOS is to develop novel eco-efficient bio-mechanical processing solutions to enrich intermediate fractions from industrial high protein and oil-containing process residues originating from agriculture and fisheries. Enzyme-aided modification steps are developed for the intermediate fractions to obtain value-added nutritive and bio-active components, chemical as well as functional bio-materials suitable for exploitation in food, skin care, wound healing, bio-pesticide and soil improvement product applications. Mentioned residues are voluminous in Europe and globally significant. Zero waste concepts to be developed aim at avoidance of unnecessary purification of the components, establishment of local and distributed processing units in connection with the primary production and new business opportunities essentially for SMEs in Europe and beyond. An emphasis is directed to East Africa and India to support their needs to process local residues to components directed to nourish infants and fight against pests, respectively, in rural areas of both regions. The success of technological developments will be assessed in terms of economical feasibility, raw material efficiency and environmental impacts. The assessment will also include study on how the developed residue producer-end use value chain will affect the existing value chain from the residue producer to feed or energy. The multidisciplinary research group and cross-industrial SME group together cover the whole value chain from residue producers and processors to various end-users. The expertises of the partners include crop and fish processing, process hard ware manufacture, mechanical, chemical and biotechnical biomaterial processing, biomaterial up-grading and analytics, enzyme technology, end-product applications, assessment of eco-efficiency and value chains, technology transfer and commercialization. Feasibility of the developed processes is verified by demonstrations.
Creating a CIRCLE by extending the BIO NCP network to Third Country NIPs

BIO CIRCLE will extend the network of National Contact Points for the FP7 theme “Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology” (BIO NCP) to National Information Points (NIP) from Third Countries over a two year period. The European Commission needs to implement the bilateral Scientific & Technological Agreements signed with Third Countries (TC), for increasing their participation in FAFB FP7 and strengthening the collaboration between European and TC researchers. The main focus of the project will be on identifying, sharing and implementing good practices between NCPs and NIPs. The expected results of BIO CIRCLE are: 1. Capacities built for Third Country BIO NIPs (through SWOT analysis, training of NIPs and twinning); 2. Strengthened consortium building in FAFB international cooperation projects (through mapping of Third Country research potential and the organisation of 2 international Brokerage Events); 3. Capacities built for Third Country Researchers to participate in FP7 (through preparation of specific training materials, training and networking with EU researchers); 4. Strengthened identification, development and sharing of Good Practices to enhance cooperation between the NCP and NIP networks (through 5 Regional Benchmarking Workshops, a Common Benchmarking Workshop and the design of a Good Practices Guide). The 6% of budget is foreseen to grant researchers from TCs to attend the 2 International Brokerage Events. The 5 BIO NCP partners of BIO CIRCLE led by APRE will assure the successful implementation of the project. The 18 NIPs partners of BIO CIRCLE will be embraced in this circle of activities aimed at ensuring quality and dynamism in implementing the Scientific & Technological Agreements between the EU and Third Countries. BIO CIRCLE will work in synergy with and be closely linked to the BIO-NET project, the complete NCP FAFB network.
Reinforcing the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB strengthening the CIRCLE of Third Countries BIO NCPs

The main objective of BIO CIRCLE 2 is to foster the knowledge base about FP7 FAFB & the networking capacities of Third Country researchers in order to reinforce their participation in FP7 projects. 3 project goals are distinguished: 1. Disseminate information effectively to Third Country researchers; 2. Organise information days and training for Third Country researchers; 3. Provide Third Country researchers with efficient networking opportunities. 5 European plus 18 Third Country partners (International Cooperation Partner Countries ICPC and Industrialised Countries) will all be involved in the activities. Apart from Kazakhstan and Thailand all involved countries (and the African continent represented by FARA) have signed a bilateral S&T agreement with the EU. The expected impacts are supported by various activities: Enhanced awareness of the Third Country researchers on the FP7 FAFB. WP2 will develop the dissemination strategy at national & regional level in Third Countries. Increased Third Country researchers’ participation in EU projects. WP3 will organise at least 2 trainings for Third Country researchers at national and regional level, 3 trainings of Third Country BIO NCPs and the organisation of 2 Regional Events per World Region. Strengthened collaborations with Third Countries signatories of bilateral S&T agreements with the EU. WP4 will implement networking activities for Third Country researchers, including brokerage events and working visits of Third Country researchers to EU research institutes and vice versa. Finally WP5 on dissemination activities will increase the awareness of European researchers about the international cooperation in FP7 FAFB. The impact of the activities will be further maximised by: 1. involving other countries that are not partners through a regional approach; 2. linking the BIO CIRCLE 2 activities to the activities of related INCO projects; 3. involving industrialised countries that are global S&T leaders in FAFB related research.

Network of Third Countries bio NCPs

www.biocircle-project.eu
Strengthening networking on BiomAss research and biowaste conversion – biotechnologY for EurOpe India inteGration

The main objective of the SAHYOG project is to establish a partnering initiative to coordinate research activities carried out in Europe and India on biomass production and biowaste conversion through biotechnological approaches. The integrated project activities will be carried out by a partnership of stakeholders from EU and India involving public and private organizations that conceive and fund research programmes as well as representatives from the scientific community. Strong EU-India linkages will be created between on-going and future research and innovation projects with the aim to exploit cooperation synergies for sustainable development.
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By bringing together science, industry and other stakeholders, these projects aim to exploit new and emerging research opportunities in the areas of food, agriculture and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and biotechnologies, and therefore contribute to creating a strong and competitive bioeconomy and offering solutions to challenges facing Europe and the world.

Project information