

**Creating enabling environments for successful partnerships  
in sourcing of genetic resources and product development**

**A workshop on cooperative business conduct and  
access and benefit-sharing (ABS) in Africa**

**– R E P O R T –**



**Danish Ministry of the Environment  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
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**Report by Dr. Gudrun Henne  
Viveka International  
gudrun.henne@viveka-international.de**

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*Danish Minister of the Environment, H.E. Karen Elleman confirming Denmark's commitment to support ABS related capacity building and business partnerships*

## Introduction

Guiding Question to the workshop:

*If the currently negotiated International Regime on ABS was adopted and translated into national laws ( if legal certainty was provided for) – what else has to be put in place to facilitate equitable business partnerships on ABS in Africa ?*

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa supports - based on national, regional and international approaches - the enhancement of personal and institutional skills, structures and provisions with regard to Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in all regions of the continent. This includes capacity development for ABS-related to policy and law making, the implementation of rules and regulations as well as the successful conclusion of contracts between users and providers of regarding genetic resources. Such contracts are mainly developed and negotiated between on the one hand companies and research institutions from industrialised countries and on the other hand companies, governmental agencies and indigenous or local communities, in developing countries.

One important precondition for forging successful business partnerships is information sharing and exchange with private sector companies as well as dialogues with public sector institutions that may frame, regulate, enable or support these partnerships.

The latter seems to be of particular importance in the context of the development of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing that is to be finalized at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan.

The International Regime on ABS (IR) is negotiated to implement the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity on a global level<sup>1</sup>. Once in place, the IR shall provide for both providers and users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge related to genetic resources a just framework for benefit-sharing: legal certainty for both access and benefits, clarity and transparency, including legal “security”, namely rules for compliance. Of course the international regime finally has to be translated into national laws and directives.

The underlying goal of the IR is to allow for development and equitable marketing of genetic resources and their biochemical compounds profitably that would provide an economic and social incentive for conservation and sustainable use of local biodiversity.

Any international regulatory mechanism is, however, only as good as the extent of its use. “Use it or loose it” - this famous sentence on biodiversity conservation seems to be equally true for human frameworks to solving the global biodiversity crisis. If the IR will not be “used” through the creation of business partnerships between providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the IR will remain an empty shell. In short: It needs business partnerships to make the International Regime work.

Currently, the potential of ABS business partnerships to contribute to national and local economic development as well as poverty alleviation is not yet being realized, especially in Africa. There are a number of significant barriers to overcome:

1. The absence of effective ABS policies and legislative frameworks at the national level as requirements for investment and valorisation of genetic and biochemical resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 1 of the CBD calls for “... the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”. Benefits include “appropriate access to genetic resources and ... appropriate transfer of relevant technologies”.

2. Limited research and development capacities to identify and pre-process genetic and biochemical resources of (potential) commercial interest in the provider countries
3. Insufficient focus on and public investment in sustainable commercialisation processes and business partnerships.

Multiple technical and political challenges are marking the path to the creation - and probably even more - to the implementation of the ABS-Protocol.

In order to facing these challenges and making further steps towards successful partnerships, it was felt that a hands-on exchange of information and views was needed between key stakeholder groups, namely

- Public sector representatives from environment and development co-operation departments;
- Business representatives from different ABS related sectors such as medicine, industrial enzymes, food and agriculture, healthcare and cosmetics;
- African stakeholders.

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative together with the Danish Ministry of Environment hosted a workshop on **September 28th, 2010** at the premises of the Ministry of Environment of Denmark, to bring these groups together and to look for innovative and promising next steps and solutions.

The workshop was titled

**„Creating enabling environments for successful partnerships in sourcing of genetic resources and product development: Cooperative business conduct and access and benefit-sharing (ABS) in Africa**



*Private sector breakout-group discussing potentials and hurdles entering into ABS partnerships with Africa.*

## Summary of the meeting

### Overview

In his introductory remarks, Soren Mark Jensen from the Danish Ministry of Environment recalled the Windhoek Ministerial ABS Conference that took place from 8.-10 March 2010 which informed African Environmental Ministers and senior politicians about the ABS concept. The Windhoek meeting also discussed and adopted the negotiation position of the African Group with regard to the International Regime. The meeting included a high level exchange with European Ministers (DK), Secretaries of State (GER) and Ambassadors (NOR) on the contentious issues of the International regime. This was the first joint activity with the ABS Initiative for Africa and a promising start for further work.

He stressed that it is for the private sector both important to know the challenges that regulators face in the process of implementing ABS and to be cognizant of the interests to make ABS functional. Private sector and regulators in the area of ABS need to meet and exchange their needs and realities so that mutual understanding can lead to forward reaching solutions.

The participants of the workshop came from private business from various sectors, business associations, governmental agencies and ministries from Europe and Africa. In their introduction, many participants expressed their desire to learn more about ABS. Some associations were entirely new to the debate. Others wanted to learn about other sectors dealing with ABS, and about private public partnerships. One participant stressed that legal certainty is a need for staying engaged in ABS and representatives from the seed sector called for taking into account the special situation of the seed industry. All participants were eager to contribute to the discussion and finding solutions.

The workshop was then structured in three parts:

The **first part** provided input on: timeliness of the workshop; objectives of the meeting (i.e. providing the basis for business partnerships); update on the process of the negotiations of the International Regime on ABS; issues currently under negotiation; the ABS implementation challenge from a business perspective<sup>2</sup>.

In the **second part** of the workshop, two breakout groups elaborated on the above listed questions, one from the private sector perspective and one from the public sector perspective.

The **third part** of the meeting brought the insights of both groups together and merged them to three clusters of results: Key findings of the meeting; Messages to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, 18 – 29 October 2010; Take home messages to the stakeholder groups present at the meeting.

The key findings were presented to the H.E. Karen Ellemann, Minister of Environment of Denmark in the context of the closing session. In her address to the participants, Minister Ellemann congratulated the group for its work and promised to support the deliberations in international negotiations and to carry the spirit and gist of the Copenhagen findings and messages to Nagoya.

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<sup>2</sup> All presentations can be downloaded from the Website of the ABS Initiative: <http://www.abs-africa.info>, as well as a reflection paper on the issues of the workshop and further information.

## Results

The sharing of experiences and the lively debate in all three parts of the workshop were productive and forthcoming. Participants wanted to learn about the problems, understand each other and help to provide the ground for ABS partnerships in Africa. The atmosphere throughout the meeting was very constructive and mutually supportive. The surprise was great at times when participants realized that what was meant by one stakeholder group was expressed in an entirely different manner by others, bearing the danger of leading to misunderstandings. The workshop was one step forward to better understanding each others' language and concepts.

A couple of issues came up like a red thread throughout the day:

It was stressed that African developing countries want to stop being suppliers of raw material only and valorize genetic resources / biochemicals in the country and contribute to higher stages in the value chain.

From a user perspective, a National Competent Authority is key to get access to the country, its genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Risks to fail without knowing the nits and grits of a country are high, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) from abroad.

Does the seed industry need an exception? Some called for it - others replied that each sector considers itself to be an exception but a successful regime on ABS needs to be comprehensive. If there is a strong compliance regime with legal certainty then sectoral approaches can be considered.

There was agreement that for investment-partnerships to happen, trust is essential between providers and users.

Sustainability of business was also an issue at several points of the discussion. In any case, sustainability at a resource-base level is crucial. A condition for this is that local people are empowered to manage their resources. Sustainability is also an issue for SME – they do not have the time or money to “go big” in another country and need legal, economic and financial infrastructures that work.

The debate continued throughout the day – results were clustered in three parts:

- Key findings by Susanne Heitmüller (SCBD) complemented by Suhel al-Janabi, (ABS Initiative for Africa)
- Messages to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, 18 – 29 October 2010
  - o From an European perspective by Carsten Lund (Danish Ministry of the Environment)
  - o From an African perspective by Pierre du Plessis (Center for Research Information Action in Africa);
- Take home messages for the stakeholders by John Cheesmond (CEO of Phytotrade), complemented by Heiko Warnken (German Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development, BMZ).

After each draft report of the results, there was a discussion in plenary. The deliberations are included in the results summarized below.



## Key findings

There was a general agreement that the **workshop is very timely**, even ahead of time – whilst others barely focus on the negotiations of the International Regime, the workshop’s participants, both private and public sectors, took a pragmatic, forward looking stand and explored opportunities for improved implementation of ABS.

This involves that ABS implementation means more than the development and adoption of international and national regulations which provide for legal certainty. ABS implementation is a very important pre-condition for making the 3<sup>rd</sup> objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity a reality – **an equitable business partnership valorizing genetic resources between users and providers**, between “North” and “South”. **In order to achieve this enabling environment the facilitation of those partnerships is key.**

**Overseas Development Aid can and should play a pivotal role in supporting the development of adequate partner-structures in provider countries** such as laboratories, platforms of research and development, universities, small and medium sized enterprises, capacity development, etc.

Financial donors to ABS such as the Global Environmental Facility and others should understand that **capacity development on legal and policy matters is not sufficient** to implement the third objective of the CBD. There is a **need to support technical and scientific enabling environments..**

It nearly came as a surprise and as a great relief that the different perspectives from public and private sector complement each other very well. Requests from business **to fill the gaps on capacity and infrastructure in provider countries** in order to enter into ABS agreements **can to some degree be addressed with existing ODA instruments.** There might, however, be a **need to develop more specialised instruments.** The private sector sees especially in ABS their responsibility to achieve sustainable development. This includes employment creation and transfer of knowhow and technology - provided adequate structures are in place.

If **ODA support to lift up business opportunities**, the private sector agreed that the **public sector needs to monitor private sector activities** fulfilling a “watchdog function” as taxpayer’s money requires prudent “investment”.



*Participants (Ellen Kallinowsky, GTZ Public Private Partnership) discussing options how requirements from business for investment in ABS partnerships could be addressed with public support instruments.*

There was a general feeling of **complementarity of players and the possibility of win-win-situations** as the sectors complement each other with their different instruments and approaches. Partnerships should be on an eye-to-eye level between the public and private sector.

**Development Cooperations could play the role of an honest broker between users and providers** of genetic resources in order to kick off a business partnership: The public sector should create a framework for investment including legal certainty and. governance

## **Recommendations to COP 10 of the CBD - from an African perspective**

The participants of the workshops felt that there is a need for the negotiators at COP10 of the CBD to be aware of some short but very crucial points:

**Partnerships between providers and users are essential to make ABS work.** Without Partnerships no implementation of the IR! But partnerships don't just happen - **they need to be incubated and fostered.** This is a **good objective for public funding** to support and there is **willingness by ODA mechanisms** to do so. To ensure that ABS supports sustainable use and conservation, **benefits must be connected to local-level resource owners and managers with secure resource tenure.**

## **Recommendations to the COP - from a European perspective**

From a European perspective, there was an equal need for sending two short but crisp and clear messages to the negotiators at COP 10:

- 1. There is an urgent need for support for implementation of the regime** - not just transposing the regime into domestic legislation, but **in creating an ABS framework that can handle and develop the interaction between providers and users.**
- 2. There is a need for establishing enabling environments for Private-Public-Partnerships (PPP)** with emphasis on the **participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)** that should **better be matched with the capacity** of developing countries.

## **Take home messages to all stakeholders**

As a result for all participants, the Plenary agreed unanimously that there is a **lot of common ground between the private and public sector.** More Public Relation on business partnerships are needed to communicate the advantages and benefits identified at the workshop.

At the same time, a **“private-public dialogue” is needed** to bridge language differences and work jointly together. It was felt that there is a real opportunity for private sector if there is a robust framework that enables action. No need to strive for perfection, but for workable environments.





*Workshop Impressions: presenting, listening, exchanging, exploring and compiling ideas on public-private co-operation*

**Neither public, nor private sector can achieve it on its own** – none of them has the means. Developing countries lack institutional infrastructure, research and development capacities and know-how, SMEs miss financial and human resources to bridge the gap. Only very big companies could provide for this but they are not necessarily the ones that bring sustainable development to local partners.

**Coherence in partner countries is needed** – and the **identification of local partners who can act as facilitators** and take out a lot of hassle from the private sector. These local partners need to be trusted by local communities that in turn need to be trained in applied research capabilities. Another important aspect is that benefits-sharing is an incentive and tool for conservation and sustainable use on the local level. And it can be much more so if it's focused on the local level where people have the resource and tenure. Resource tenure is an important leverage to success both in partnerships and sustainability.

But not only do African partners need support – there is a **gap of funding for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**. Different agencies need to support private sector in setting up facilities in Africa, and do proper due diligence for funding. There was a call for **developing agencies to screen their existing financial support mechanisms** and **GEF and other donors should earmark funds specifically for ABS**

In order to have practical rules and regulations that are supportive of and do not run counter business partnerships, there is an **urgent need for private sector to advise on**

**legislation/regulation.** For finding sound legal and policy solutions, development agencies need to support the participation of all stakeholders in the legislation process

Business partnerships in Africa can be achieved if **tailor-made partnership processes** on ABS and a conducive environment are put in place. A **partnership landscape analysis** by the ABS Initiative in Africa would be a useful tool to identifying “low hanging fruits” and the easiest options available at the moment. This would provide useful guidance on who to enter partnerships with. This analysis should include information about who still to be informed and brought on board. The way to do it? Easy: Keep it smart and simple!

Both public and private sector are looking forward to the adoption of the Protocol at COP10

The final call was twofold:

**The Plenary of the Workshop sends a KISS to the COP:  
“Keep It Smart & Simple!”**

**An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory!**

## ANNEX

### **Creating enabling environments for successful partnerships in sourcing of genetic resources and product development**

*A workshop on cooperative business conduct & access and benefit-sharing (ABS) in Africa  
(jointly arranged by the ABS Africa Initiative and the Danish Ministry of the Environment)*

**Tuesday – September 28, 2010**

**Hosted by the Danish Ministry of the Environment  
Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning  
Haraldsgade 53, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark**

### Agenda

10.00 h	<b>Registration and light breakfast buffet</b>
10.30 h	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Welcome</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Søren Mark Jensen, Danish Ministry of the Environment (MIM)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Objective of the meeting</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr. Andreas Drews &amp; Suhel al-Janabi, ABS Capacity Development Initiative</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Introduction of participants</b><p><i>Facilitation: Dr. Gudrun Henne, Viveka International</i></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public sector representatives (environment, development co-operation)</li><li>• Business representatives (different ABS related sectors)</li><li>• African stakeholders</li></ul></li></ul>
11.15 h	<b>Access and Benefit Sharing – what’s at stake?</b> <p><i>Presentations; Questions and Answers; Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Update: outcomes of the last negotiation round of the international regime on ABS:</b><p><i>How key features and mechanisms of the draft ABS protocol to be adopted in Nagoya may affect user and provider countries of genetic resources?</i></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Susanne Heitmüller, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)</li><li>- Olivier Rukundo, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>The .ABS implementation challenge:</b><p><i>Besides “legal certainty”, which structures are essential to support fair ABS based business partnerships in and with Africa?</i></p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pierre du Plessis, Center for Research Information Action in Africa, Southern Africa Development and Consultants (CRIA SA-DC)</li><li>- Cyril Lombard / John Cheesmond, Phytotrade Africa</li></ul></li></ul>
12.30 h	<b>Lunch at the Danish Ministry of the Environment</b>

14.00 h	<b>Making ABS in Africa a reality: gaps, obstacles, potentials, opportunities</b> <i>Stakeholder (self-) assessments</i>	
	<b>Breakout Group: Private Sector</b> <i>Moderated discussion by John Cheesmond</i> <i>Which legal, economic and R&amp;D framework conditions in provider countries are necessary for private sector engagement with regard to ABS?</i> <i>What can the private sector contribute to improve these framework conditions? What needs necessarily to be supported by the public sector?</i>	<b>Breakout Group: Public Sector</b> <i>Moderated discussion by Dr. Gudrun Henne</i> <i>What can ABS-related business partnerships that aim at valorizing genetic resources contribute to international sustainable development?</i> <i>What technical and/or financial instruments are available to support such partnerships? Which of these instruments need to be further developed?</i>
15.30 h	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16.00 h	<b>Making ABS in Africa a reality: a need for public - private cooperation</b> <i>Moderated discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Report back from breakout groups</b></li> <li>• <b>Plenary discussion on public private cooperation in valorizing genetic resources: The way forward</b>  <i>Which approaches and support schemes are to be set up to attain win-win situations between users and providers of genetic resources?</i></li> </ul>	
17.15 h	<b>Coffee break</b>	
17.30 h	<b>Making ABS in Africa a reality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Address by the Danish Minister for the Environment</b>  - H.E. Karen Ellemann</li> </ul> <i>Moderated discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key findings of the meeting</b></li> <li>• <b>Recommendations to COP (regarding e.g. ABS, business initiatives, technology and knowhow transfer, capacity development)</b></li> <li>• <b>Take home messages (stakeholder specific) and next (cooperation) steps</b></li> </ul>	
18.30 h	<b>Closure of the meeting</b>	
19.00 – 21.00 h	<b>Reception and dinner at the Danish Ministry of the Environment</b>	

## Breakout Group Private Sector

The Breakout Group on the private sector discussed the following questions:

1. Which legal, economic and R&D framework conditions in provider countries are necessary for private sector engagement with regard to ABS?
2. What can the private sector contribute to improve these framework conditions? What needs necessarily to be supported by the public sector?

Following interventions were captured from the “sector self assessment” (flipchart transcript):

- Seed industry → „Traditional“ experiences in partnerships with public sector (genebanks)  
Concerned about seed exchange if there was overregulation in Africa  
The Seed Sector also called for an exception for the International Regime in order to reflect particular function of this sector with regard to food security.
- Animal breeding → E.g. in education, food security  
Also mainly small and medium-size enterprises (SME) – a focal point that functions is crucial otherwise transaction costs will be too high  
Concerned of having to address the individual countries / National Focal Points (NFP) in the many member states  
Open knowledge exchange in the sector so acknowledgement of TK as well as BS difficult
- Pharmaceutical → Approaching to public partners in Europe mainly in research and education, not ODA  
Need: botanical samples for R&D needed which cannot be provided by all countries due to lack of capacity
- Partners in research desperately needed
  - Long history of identifying resources and active compounds
  - Low hanging fruits in Pharma sector are collected, so some companies stepped out of “nature” as source, now focusing on synthetic lab work
- Often Focal Points are not aware of their responsibilities and function – problem for those who seek access
- Cosmetics → No systematic collection and provision of data: “what is available through whom?”  
Too many different legislations/rules – no overview!  
“in-country” local partner / broker needed with review & overview
- Biotech → Contains mainly of SME business, those are committed to ABS if mechanism is certain  
Includes plant biotech  
Clear rules needed + no heavy mechanisms, avoid bureaucracy  
Biotech Companies could establish plants in Africa but wait. First requirements (legal and R&D) are to be met. In the meantime business with Asia.

## The Private Sector....

... can provide	...requires		to be further addressed
Look for information actively	A local partner	Research centers, R & D	Labor force
Qualification	Single point of reference	Taxonomists full taxonomy of countries	Infrastructure
Expertise	Framework for commercialization	Plant collectors	Skills
Employment	Access to information how to access GR and partners in providing countries	Information on funding (Parties, SME's)	Model clauses
Educational and technical knowledge	A "risk sharer" to engage in local business	Particularly SME: Closing funding gaps by ODA	Local business societies
Training	Legal knowledge on the spot	A broker for contacts in provider countries	Finding lawyers
Establish subsidiary there in Africa	IP rules, that allow is a win-win	Rules that ensure the validity of patents	
Market access	Regulations in place	University support and partnerships for R&D	
Advise regulators and law makers (immediate)	Robust banking system	Contract law	
Giving value to Biodiversity		Supporting local/international skill development	
Good will			
Capital			
Technology			

(flip chart transcript)



# Breakout Group Public Sector

The Breakout Group on the public sector discussed the following questions:

- 1) *What can ABS-related business partnerships that aim at valorizing GR contribute to international sustainable development?*
- 2) *What technical and/or financial instruments are available to support such partnerships? Which of these instruments need to be further developed?*

Ad 1) *What can ABS-related business partnerships that aim at valorizing GR contribute to international sustainable development?*

Participants identified a number of **preconditions** to contributions to sustainable development:

- The framework for overall partnerships (int. cooperations/strategy & concepts) is owned by the government
- Or strong intermediary bodies do exist to forge business partnerships, i.e. “honest brokers”
- Instruments need to be designed with the participation of business and informed civil society
- There is a business environment in the country

The following contributions to sustainable development were identified (flipchart transcript):

National/local SD	International SD
- Contributes to governance & institutional capacity building	
- May contribute to recognize GR as national resources that have to be managed	
- Conservation to biological diversity	
- Income generation from renewable resources	
- Economic diversification	
- Create rural income opportunities and contributes to poverty alleviation	
- Privat sector development	
- Knowhow**** & technology transfer	

- Discovery/awareness / contribution to health***	
- Inward investments	- Green investment opportunities
- Partnerships	
- Stimulates links between research, education and business	- stimulates / contributes to basic research
- Affirms traditional knowledge and contributes to the conservation of traditional lifestyles	

However, these contributions come partially with specific **challenges and dangers**:

- While ABS related business partnerships might contribute to the recognition of genetic resources as national resources in general, a precondition for such contracts is that they need to be recognized beforehand as material resources that need institutional and legal frameworks etc.
- While ABS contracts might contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, they might also endanger “wild” resources if business from a resource expands. There is a danger of overexploitation if moving to “bigger industry”
- Regarding contributions to public health, there is a danger that benefits of products occur only in developed countries (e.g. expensive medicines, no availability in provider country or developing countries etc.)
- Transfer of know how might lead to brain drain (e.g. trainings in industry in user country might lead to job offers and relocation)
- A contribution to the affirmation of traditional knowledge and traditional lifestyles through ABS partnerships requires that indigenous and local communities have land tenure and rights, so that they can in fact manage the resources

Ad 2) *What technical and/or financial instruments are available to support such partnerships? Which of these instruments need to be further developed?*

Differentiate: Create partnerships ⇔ support partnerships

- Partnership program for ABS proposals
- There are many instruments available but might not fit the ABS situation
- Need for a quality screening (as industry is not always honest or capable)
- Long-term commitment needed
- Role of banks for partnerships eg. Regional banks
- Facilitate brokering by dev. Agencies → Where? Etc.
- Value added by regional approach?
- National specificities need to be considered
- Do development banks understand the potential & viability?
- Access to venture capital, equity finance & development capital
- Access to product development (“low hanging finits”)
- Not subsidizing, but incubating good ideas!
- Screening of countries → partnership landscape analysis trough the ABS Initiative

## List of Participants

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
Søren Mark Jensen	Danish Ministry of the Environment Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Denmark
Carsten Lund	Danish Ministry of the Environment Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Denmark
Flemming Winther Olsen	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark
Karin Klitgaard	Confederation of Danish Industry	Denmark
Ole Kirk	Novozymes A/S	Denmark
Bo Hammer Jensen	Novozymes A/S	Denmark
Jette Ingrid Hansen	Danisco A/S	Denmark
Alice Cadow	Danisco A/S	Denmark / USA
Søren Ekelund-Jørgensen	Chr. Hansen A/S	Denmark
Katleena Lotander-Buckbee	Finnish Environment Institute	Finland
Delphine Morandeau	Ministry of the Environment	France
Bruno David	French Pharmaceutical Association and Cosmetics Association	France
Isabelle Clement Nissou	Semences et plants (GNIS)	France
Daphne Young d'Hervé	International Chamber of commerce (ICC)	France
Susanne Heitmüller	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)	Germany
Barbara Fruth	Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology	Germany
Ricardo Gent	German Association of Biotechnology Industries (DIB)	Germany
Heiko Warnken	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Germany
Ellen Kallinowsky	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH	Germany
Norbert Weitkemper	Vital Solutions GmbH	Germany
Andreas Drews	ABS Initiative for Africa / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH	Germany
Suhel Al-Janabi	ABS Initiative for Africa / Geomedia GbR	Germany
Gudrun Henne	ABS Initiative for Africa / Viveka International	Germany
Olivier Rukundo	Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)	Italy / Canada
Justin Rakotoarisaona	The African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA)	Kenya
Pierre du Plessis	Center for Research Information Action in Africa, Southern Africa Development and Consultants (CRIA SA-DC)	Namibia
Tonny van den Boom	Nunhems Netherlands B.V	Netherlands
Heleen Bos	Rijk Zwaan	Netherlands
Anne-Marie Neeteson	European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders	Netherlands
Amelie Thor	Norwegian Bioindustry Association (NBA)	Norway
Christian Sieber	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)	Switzerland
John Cheesmond	PhytoTrade Africa	UK
Cyril Lombard	PhytoTrade Africa	UK