

BIMST-EC COUNTRIES EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

COLOMBO JOINT DECLARATION

We, the delegates representing the BIMST-EC Countries having met in Colombo during 7-8 October 2002 and having discussed COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRO BASED TECHNOLOGIES and INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, and

- Realizing the enormous potential for joint collaborative effort on the two subject areas under reference and the need to facilitate economic co-operation among the BIMST-EC countries.
- Recognizing the need to initiate such collaborative work aimed at expanding each others technology base as well as market reach.
- Recognizing the opportunities for joint research and development and the transfer of technology among the countries.

RECOMMEND AS FOLLOWS

- That the BIMST-EC countries affirm the programme of joint action identified by the expert group meeting, at the forthcoming Ministerial meeting.
- That both bilateral and multi-lateral collaborative initiatives identified by the expert group meeting be actively supported by the BIMST-EC member countries at the ministerial meeting.
- That the private sectors of each country actively sponsor the identified collaborative initiatives.
- That governments identify sources of funding to support the collaborative process in conjunction with the respective private sector organizations.
- That each national focal point be kept informed of the progress in respect the initiatives and joint programme of action, and that this information be disseminated among BIMST-EC countries periodically.

INTERACTIVE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS - AGRICULTURE

1. Low-cost Micro Irrigation Systems

Requested by Sri Lanka

Dr Kshanika Hirimburegama (University of Colombo); Dr C. Jayasekera (CRI)

Provider

Ms. Paradee, Thailand; Dr. Kumar, India

2. Database for Medicinal Plants, Bio-active natural products and mushrooms

➤ **Medicinal Plants**

Requested by Sri Lanka ITI, Colombo

Provider

Thailand, Dr. Taweesak; India, Dr. Rawat

➤ **Mushrooms**

Collaboration among the three countries

India, Dr. Kapoor; Sri Lanka, Department of Agriculture; Thailand, Dr. Taweesak

3. Database on Traditional Knowledge

➤ **Traditional Food**

Requested by ITI, Sri Lanka

Provider Thailand, Dr. Sumali; India, Dr Kapoor

4. Bio-fertilizer and Bio-pesticides

India requested Sri Lanka to be specific on the crop and pest in this regard.

Requested by Sri Lanka, Department of Agriculture (Dr Periyasami); CRI (Dr Jayasekera)
Provider India - Dr Kapoor.

➤ **Bio-farming of Medicinal plants**

Requested by Sri Lanka and Thailand from India

➤ **Organic farming of Fruits**

Requested by ITI, Sri Lanka (Dr. Yapa Bandara); Informatics (Mr Kapila)
Provider India - Dr Kumara

➤ **GM Foods - Policy formulation**

Requested by Sri Lanka NSF - Dr. Thamara Dias; University of Peradeniya - Prof. Upali Samarajeewa, Prof. Athula Perera.

Provider

Thailand - Dr Sumalai

India - Dr Kapoor

➤ **Development of Identification protocols and validation**

Requested by Sri Lanka - NSF, Dr Thamara Dias; University of Peradeniya - Dr D.C.K. Illeperuma

Provider India - Dr Kapoor

5. Seed Technology

Hybrid seed production at farm level

Requested by Sri Lanka - University of Ruhuna, Dr Weerasena Department of Agriculture - Dr Periyasami

Provider

India - Dr Rawat

Thailand - Dr Sumalai

➤ **Cryo-preservation of seeds**

Requested by Sri Lanka - CRI

➤ **Seed for medicinal plant cultivation**

Requested by ITI and BMART from Thailand and India.

6. Post harvest Technology

Requested by Sri Lanka

NARA

ITI - Dr Shanthi Wilson

Department of Agriculture - Dr Sarananda

IPHT - Dr Palipana

University of Peradeniya - Dr B.C.K. Illeperuma

➤ **Blast freezing of fish**

➤ **Minimal processing of fruits and vegetables**

➤ **Low cost storage structure**

➤ **Post harvest treatments**

➤ **Packaging materials**

Provider

India - CSIR, Mr Kumar

7. Functional Foods

Requested by Sri Lanka - ITI, Dr Janaki Gooneratne

Collaborative research programmes with India - Dr Kapoor and Thailand - Dr Taweesa.

8. Request for Technologies

Requested by Sri Lanka - ITI, Dr Nandani Ediriweera

- **Bio-degradable packaging films**
- **Fish snacks, Fish oils**
- **Value addition to fish wastes**
- **Processing of Eggs**
- **Rice - bran oil, Manufacture of dehydrated foods**

Provider Thailand, Dr Sumalai

9. Common Food Quality Standards

Requested by Major De Silva from SLSI

All BIMST-EC countries should collaborate in this regard.

INTERACTIVE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS - ICT**High Impact of Projects**

1. School Net
2. Agriculture Information Network
 - Indigenous Technology
 - Herbal
 - Bio Informatics
 - Irrigation etc.
3. Telecentre - Non Urban Areas

School Net

Problems:-

- lack of knowledge on IT among School Children
- lack of Infrastructure facilities
- lack of awareness among school children
- Lack of Teachers (IT)
- Language (English)

Objectives :-

- To provide opportunities for teachers & school children to have IT
- knowledge, in order to achieve good quality education.
- To educate students on the importance of IT for increasing their quality of Life.
- To promote IT awareness among schools.

Scope of Action

1. To select the most satiable schools
2. To provide internet access and equipment for the selected schools.
3. To allocate adequate time for IT related activities in schools.