

Legal and Regulatory Process that achieve Equity, Access to Justice and Rule of Law

FLEDGE focuses on effective implementation of Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol on Access to genetic resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and dealing with use of SDG 16 on access to justice, peace and rule of law in achieving development. Supporting countries like China to develop the national ABS framework, developing guidance frameworks to implement the Nagoya Protocol, suggesting national actions to implement the ITPGRFA and related training and capacity building actions, supporting policy framework on biodiversity and human rights, developing options for legislative impact assessment form core of our work in this Programme area. Focal areas include legal and related frameworks such as biodiversity law, marine and ocean law, IP law and development law. Currently, FLEDGE is working on supporting national and international actions related to policy making on synthetic biology.

Key actions

With a pan India and global mandate to link science-policy-practice, FLEDGE has been focusing on issues of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS) for the past several years. The following are some key activities and outcomes of such actions.

- a. Published a guidance manual for use by State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in India on issues related to implementing the ABS provisions under the Biological Diversity Act (2002). The publication can be accessed here <http://fledgein.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SBB-ABS-Agreement-Model.pdf>
- b. Prepared a synthesis report on how India can implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and gaps in the current Indian system on ABS. The report can be accessed at <http://fledgein.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FLEDGE-Policy-Brief-3-2015.pdf>
- c. Supported SBBs in Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra on implement the ABS provisions through a number of seminars, orientation sessions and capacity building actions.
- d. Supported two sessions of National Biodiversity Congress organized by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (2015, 2017), including leading sessions on issues related to ABS provisions under the Biological Diversity Act and its implementation.
- e. Provided legal guidance to SBBs by reviewing the state rules in 2018. The review can be accessed through <http://fledgein.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Good-Intentions-Poor-Understanding.pdf>

FLEDGE has organised number of ABS related training cum capacity building programmes, both within India and abroad. The following are the key ones:

- a. India-Africa capacity building programme on ABS and traditional knowledge for community representatives – October 2014
- b. ASEAN training programme on ABS negotiation skills – December 2014
- c. Orientation workshop for private sector representatives with Kerala State Biodiversity Board – February 2015
- d. Awareness raising programme on ABS for Ayurveda practitioners and traditional medial healers with Kerala State Biodiversity Board – May 2015
- e. Capacity building programme for BMC representatives and private sector with West Bengal State Biodiversity Board – May 2015.
- f. ABS negotiation skills training – for officials and community representatives in Rwanda – July 2015.
- g. Awareness raising training on ABS for developing the national ABS framework in Tajikistan and Samoa – August and September 2015.
- h. Media training workshop support for national workshop on ABS – July 2016.
- i. Media training workshop for Karnataka State Biodiversity Board – April 2018.