

TAILORING BIOTECHNOLOGIES 2007



Reconstructing Agro-biotechnologies for Development?

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2007, KYOTO, JAPAN

The aim of this conference is to go beyond the pro-anti debate on narrowly identified and a-social biotechnology. In this conference, the social shaping of agricultural biotechnologies will be a key-issue and thus how 'impacts' are embedded in the technology itself will be analyzed. Main concern, however, is to discuss the possibility to reappropriate (the mode of) technology development, and reconstruct technologies for the benefit of the rural poor. The conference's perspective implies that we need to open the black box of technology development and go inside. The idea that technologies are products of agency and knowledge systems developed within particular social contexts is the object of study of "science and technology studies" and "social constructivism", among others, and now commonly shared. The analysis of technology within the context of uneven and contradictory power relations and the possibility of appropriation and democratization is an important issue in "critical theory" and "political economy". Furthermore, as any type of agricultural technologies is embedded in agrarian realities, we can rely on the contribution from "rural sociology" and "agricultural economics" to understand the actual as well as potential contexts of development and application of technologies. These critical social sciences provide us with diverse analytical points of view, but at least three cross-sections can be applied to our common interests: spatial, social and epistemological aspects of reconstructing agro-biotechnologies.

November 3, Saturday

- 1030~1040 Opening speech: Shuji Hisano (Kyoto University, Japan)
- 1040~1120 Keynote speech: Guido Ruivenkamp (Wageningen University, the Netherlands)
- 1120~1200 Keynote speech: Rachel Schurman (University of Minnesota, USA)
- 1200~1330 Lunch
- 1330~1530 Session (1) Contested Biotechnology, Ways Forward
- 1545~1715 Session (2) Policies and the Making of Biotechnology Development
- 1800~2000 Conference buffet dinner (Restaurant "Shiran")

November 4, Sunday

- 900~1000 A documentary film: Tailoring Biotechnologies for Development
- 1000~1040 Keynote speech: Les Levidow (Open University, UK)
- 1040~1210 Session (3) Potentiality of Reflection, Actuality of Reconstruction
- 1210~1340 Lunch
- 1340~1510 Session (4) IPR and New Technology Regime
- 1510~1530 Special Session: Rediscovering Locality, Traditional Vegetables in Kyoto
- 1545~1645 Plenary session – Chaired by Joost Jongerden (Wageningen University, the Netherlands)
- 1645~1700 Closing speech: Guido Ruivenkamp (Wageningen University, the Netherlands)
- 1800~2100 Social events: walking tour to several temples (night-time visits) and Kyoto cuisine

November 5, Monday

- 0930~1700 Excursion to the Kyoto Agricultural Research Institute and rural landscape in Kameoka-city



- The venue is the main conference room (2nd floor) in the Faculty of Law/Economics Research Bldg., Kyoto University.
- The official language of the conference is English.
- Updated detail information will be available at the website of Tailoring Biotechnologies (<http://www.tailoringbiotechnologies.com>).
- Questions can be emailed to the organizers: Joost.Jongerden@wur.nl and hisano@econ.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

Organized by THE CENTRE FOR TAILORING BIOTECHNOLOGIES AND GENOMICS, WAGENINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS
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