

European Action in Global Life Sciences, EAGLES Food Forum

I. Abstract:

The EAGLES Food Forum is a *multilateral review and communications programme* which will strengthen the European responses to the global challenges posed by food sufficiency, quality, safety and environmental conservation in the developing world. The programme has been designed and will be implemented by a group of leading EU and DEC life scientists, regulatory and communication specialists, and ethicists in the agriculture and food area. The aim is to review and define strategies for developments in specific areas and to encourage open and balanced dialogue with the European public, media and opinion formers about the needs and competencies of the DEC.

The Programme has five main components:

1. The **EAGLES Communication Office** will coordinate the programme, in particular stimulating the flow of information about the effect of European and worldwide agriculture and food programmes and policies in the developing world;
2. **EAGLES Lecturers**, authoritative scientists and other experts from DEC, will consult, lecture, speak and write in Europe, and outside Europe where appropriate;
3. **EAGLES Food Reports** will assess the scale and effectiveness of relevant European and international policies and programmes;
4. **EAGLES Food Symposia** will discuss these policies and programmes,
5. **EAGLES Food Workshops** will review and define strategies on selected topics for subsequent development and implementation.

II. Objectives

Faced with the humanitarian challenge in developing countries posed by starvation and under-nutrition together with destruction and pollution of natural habitats due to agriculture, both the European community and life scientists have a key responsibility to respond. Therefore a group of leading EU and developing and emerging country (DEC) life scientists, regulatory and communication specialists and ethicists in the agriculture and food area are organising the EAGLES Food Forum. The aims of this project are to:

- review the current state of knowledge in relevant science and technology and define strategies for the application of this knowledge to selected objectives,
- increase public and political awareness in Europe by open and balanced dialogue of the needs for responsible applications of the life sciences and biotechnologies in DEC,
- establish and implement a communications programme to improve European understanding of the global challenges presented by food deficiency and natural habitat destruction and pollution in the developing world,
 - promote better appreciation in developing countries of the European and worldwide life science and biotechnology programmes, policies and regulations on food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental conservation,
 - encourage public and political support in Europe for the European programmes on DEC food, water and environmental security so that they can be continued and strengthened.

III. EAGLES Food Forum

This project is proposed by the members of the Food Forum of the European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES), a high level network of scientists and humanitists from Europe and the developing world focusing on the food sector. This Forum recognises the relationships with the health, environment, water, and energy sectors, which are covered by two other EAGLES Forums. EAGLES intends to facilitate, *through review and better communications*, those European programmes and policies in the life sciences which are directed to the needs of the developing countries and emerging economies.

The key strategy of EAGLES is to involve leading scientists and humanitarians from the developing world in scientific, public and political discussions in Europe so that we in Europe will be better informed about the needs of the developing and emerging countries (DEC) and the ways in which European life science programmes and policies can contribute to meeting these needs.

EAGLES provides a platform for the scientists from DEC where they will be able to

- give voice in Europe through various consultations and dialogues to the needs and competencies of the DEC in the life sciences;
- encourage and advise Europeans in applying more effectively European competencies in the life sciences for the benefit of the poor and needy in the DECs;
- discuss ethical and regulatory questions in the life sciences from the perspective of the needs of the developing and emerging countries and
- strengthen the global responsibilities of EU programmes in research, education, innovation, application and implementation.

IV. EAGLES Food Steering Committee

The EAGLES Food Forum has been devised by the EAGLES Food Steering Committee which will supervise its implementation. Its members are:

Dr Ismail Serageldin, Chairman of EAGLES, Director of the New Library of Alexandria, Egypt

Prof David McConnell, Chairman, EAGLES Food Forum & EFB EAGLES Task Group, Co-Vice Chairman of EAGLES, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Prof. Huanming Yang, Co-Vice Chairman of EAGLES, Director, Beijing Genome Institute, China

Prof Patrick Cunningham, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and European Group on Life Sciences

Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Director General, International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, Research Centre of CGIAR, Syria

Prof Arturo Falaschi, Director-General, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy

Sir Brian Heap, Master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge and Royal Society, UK

Prof Luis Herrera- Estrella, National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico

Prof Marc van Montagu, Gent University, Belgium and European Group on Life Sciences

Prof Jennifer Thompson, Department of Microbiology, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Florence Wambugu, Executive Director, Harvest Biotech Foundation International, Kenya

The role of the Steering Committee will be to:

- provide expertise, experience and advice in all phases of the project on strategic planning and general oversight of the aims and objectives of the project;
- establish strategic synergies and networking with other related bodies (e.g. national academies of science, international food, agriculture and environment organisations, life science industry organisations in the EU and worldwide);
- other projects, especially other FP6 Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects, and complementary international and national projects;
- represent the project and its aims especially to opinion leaders, politicians (European and national Parliaments) and the media;
- review project evaluations carefully and advise on any necessary modifications of the project as it progresses;

make a final overall evaluation of the project and the onward action plan and work programme.

V. Food Forum

The EAGLES Food Forum presently comprises a number of well-known scientists from the EU and Developing Countries in approximately equal proportions together with leading experts in the regulatory, bioethics and science communication fields working long term in this area. They are combining their expertise and knowledge of the life sciences, with much experience of the role of the life sciences in the DCs. They have substantial knowledge of the way in which the life sciences are organised, mobilised and applied in Europe and in the developing world. Many have worked together on other major projects. The group has established relationships, complementarities and synergies which will be valuable in designing and implementing the proposed programme. Other similar leading individuals and organisations in this field have already indicated their interest in becoming involved. The EAGLES Food Forum will be open to, and welcome, them and further alike.

EAGLES Food Forum

EU Life Scientists:

Dr Klaus Amman, Botanical Garden, Bern, CH

Prof Julio Celis, Federation Biochemical Societies, DK

Prof Patrick Cunningham, Trinity College Dublin, IRL

Prof Børge Diderichsen, EFB President, DK

Prof Sir Brian Heap, St Edmund's College, UK

Prof Lene Lange, Novozymes A/S, DK

Prof David McConnell, Trinity College Dublin, IRL

Prof Birger Møller, Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University, DK

Professor Marc van Montagu, Gent University, B

Dr Johan Sanders, Wageningen University, NL

Prof Willem Stiekema, Wageningen University

Mr Jens Sundbye, Life & Food Science, Investment Location, DK

Prof Roberto Tuberosa, University of Bologna, IT

DEC Life Scientists:

Prof Paulo Arruda, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil

Prof Zhangliang Chen, China Agricultural University, China

Prof Luis Herrera- Estrella, National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico

Dr Jorge Huete Perez, Universidad Centro Americana, Nicaragua

Prof Yufa Peng, Academy Agricultural Sciences, China

Dr Ismail Serageldin, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Prof Jennifer Thompson, Cape Town University, South-Africa

Dr Florence Wambugu, Harvest Biotech Foundation International, Kenya

Prof. Huanming Yang, Beijing Genome Institute, China

Regulatory Specialists:

Mr Willy de Greef, International Biotech Regulatory Services, B

Mr Niels Louwaars, Centre for Genetic Resources, NL

Prof Julian Kinderlerer, Sheffield Institute for Biotechnology Law and Ethics, UK

Communication Specialists

Prof Richard Braun, EFB Task Group on Public Perceptions of biotechnology, CH

Ms Willemine Brinkman, Tropenbos International, NL

Prof Joske Bunders, Free University Amsterdam, NL

Dr Siglinde Fischer, BiolinX, DE

Mr Hugo Van Heuverswyn, Flemish Institute of Biotechnology, B

Ms Anne-Marie Neeteson, Farm Animal Industrial Platform, NL

Dr Cynthia Schneider, Georgetown University, USA

Ethicists:

Dr Donald Bruce, Church of Scotland, UK

Dr Roger Straughan, University of Reading, UK

Supporting Organisations:

European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB), Prof. Børge Diderichsen, President

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Director General, ICARDA

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Prof Arturo Falaschi, Director General

VI. Activities

The EAGLES Food Forum is intended to review, publicise and stimulate the use of European skills and competencies in the life sciences in combating the challenges of food and environmental security in the Developing and Emerging Countries (DEC).

There are excellent European programmes; some national, some funded by the EC and some funded by industry. But often these are not well known to the general public. The EAGLES Food Forum will inform the European public and political opinion about the needs and competencies of the DEC in the area of “Food Quality and Safety” Priority programme in order to:

- raise the level of understanding of developing countries food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security issues and of public and political support,
- show how the European programmes and policies are responding to these needs and
- how they involve co-operation with the competent authorities in the DEC,
- suggest how these programmes and policies can be strengthened.

The Programme has five main components:

1. The **EAGLES Communication Office** will coordinate the programme, in particular stimulating the flow of information about the effect of European and worldwide agriculture and food programmes and policies in the developing world;
2. **EAGLES Lecturers**, authoritative scientists and other experts from DEC, will consult, lecture, speak and write in Europe, and outside Europe where appropriate, thereby informing both political and public opinion;
3. **EAGLES Food Reports** will assess the scale and effectiveness of relevant European and international policies and programmes;
4. **EAGLES Food Symposia** will discuss these policies and programmes and propose amendments and additions,
5. **EAGLES Food Workshops** will review and define strategies on selected topics for subsequent development and implementation including: ICT & food security, challenges posed by the industrialisation of livestock production, EU/DEC PhD student mobility,

veterinary vaccine programmes, plant genomics for food security with rice as a model plant, novel protein foods.

1. The EAGLES Food Communications Office

The role of the EAGLES Food Communications Office will be to:

- promote the message of the EAGLES Food Forum, and therefore the role of European life science in the developing world, at the broadest and highest possible levels;
- publicise the issues raised by the EAGLES Food Forum relating European life sciences to the food and environmental security problems of the developing world.

The EAGLES Food Communications Officer will play a major role in organising

- tours by the EAGLES Lecturers;
- EAGLES Food Symposia in coordination with sub-contracted local organisers;
- EAGLES Food Workshops in conjunction with their proposers.

The EAGLES Food Communications Office will carry out a carefully designed communications programme to maximise the impact of the EAGLES Food Lecturers, EAGLES Food Reports, EAGLES Food Symposia and EAGLES Food Workshops through:

- distributions of EAGLES Food Reports and the executive summaries and reports of EAGLES Symposia and Workshops to targeted named individuals in the European Commission, the European Parliament, National Ministries and newspapers journalists, television and radio producers, likely to be interested in covering food and environmental security issues in relation to developing countries issues.
- a dedicated website;
- press information briefing papers;
- responses to press enquiries;
- proposing and arranging of interviews, articles, programmes etc;
- the scientific press especially Nature, Science, Scientific American, New Scientist and equivalent journals in other languages;
- establishing continuing relations with journalists throughout Europe as an EAGLES Network of journalists;
- similarly establishing if possible an EAGLES Editors' Forum;
- proposing to radio and television stations programmes on how European life science and biotechnology research is helping to improve food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security in developing countries with the EAGLES network of distinguished life scientists advising the programme producers;
- proposing EAGLES Lecturers to, for example, the BBC to give the prestigious Reith Lectures, to the Royal Institution in London to give the hugely popular Christmas Lectures and to other similarly publicised events in other European countries.

Provision has therefore been made in the project's estimated budget for a full time Communication Officer, Project Coordinator at 1/5 time and Finance Officer at 1/10 time.

2. The EAGLES Food Lecturers

The EAGLES Lecturers will be chosen by the EAGLES Food Forum for their experience and knowledge of the food and environmental challenges faced by the DEC and their ability to communicate the needs of the DEC to the European public and European institutions. Their

remit will be to communicate from their own personal experiences about how European food programmes and policies are affecting their own countries and regions.

The aim will be to commission an average of 10 Lecturers per year, commencing 6 months after the start of the project so as to allow the required lead-time for Lecturers to be selected and arrangements to be made.

EAGLES Food Forum will establish lectureships to be awarded to leading life science and other food specialists from the DEC to undertake speaking tours of Europe. When appropriate such tours will be joint tours involving scientists from both DEC and Europe.

EAGLES Lecturers will, for example:

- speak at EAGLES Food Symposia;
- speak with Symposia, parliamentarians, civil servants and political parties of the European and national parliaments;
- give interviews to editors and journalists, for newspapers, and on television and radio;
- speak to learned societies, including those concerned with general issues such as development aid, ethics, globalisation etc;
- speak to student societies and to university departments;
- speak about the European policies and programmes at international meetings;
- represent the EAGLES Food Forum at international meetings.

Each lecture tour will be arranged by the EAGLES Communications Office (see WP2) to suit the experience and interests of the speaker.

EAGLES is linked into many European networks so it will be readily possible to arrange contacts across Europe at appropriate levels. These networks include:

- the members of the Sections, Associated Sections, Task Groups and Regional Branch Offices of the European Federation of Biotechnology;
- members of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies;
- the c. 1100 Fellows of the European Molecular Biology Organisation;
- staff and alumni of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory at many universities and research institutes etc.

These tours will be widely publicised, so as to achieve the most effective impact possible.

By bringing their personal experiences as scientists from developing countries, they will provide both scientific credibility and emotional impact which are together crucially important for public perceptions.

Each Lecturer will prepare a short paper about his experiences during the lecture tour describing the subject matter, venues and audiences of his presentations and interviews so as to provide feed back to the EAGLES Food Forum and to inform the development of European Food programmes in DEC. These papers will be disseminated through email and the EAGLES Food website to the media and politicians, which the EAGLES Food Forum is targeting.

In addition to the Lecturers, all members of the EAGLES Food Forum will represent the EAGLES Food programme at strategically significant conferences in the EU and throughout the world. The EAGLES initiative, for example, was launched at the BioVision World Life Sciences Forum during April 2003 in Lyon with a debate dinner. EAGLES is holding a session during the Global Biotechnology Forum in Concepción, Chile on 2-5 March 2004 for leading scientists and humanists from developing countries to explore new relationships in biotechnology between North and South in its medical, agri-food, biofuel and water applications. EAGLES is also currently organising a session entitled “*The Issue of Biotechnology and Sustainable Consumption: The Major Challenge for the 21st Century*” during the first BioVision Alexandria conference at the Alexandria Library on 3-6 April 2004 hosted by Dr Ismail Serageldin, Chairman of EAGLES and Vice-Chairman of BioVision.

Provision has therefore been made in this proposal’s estimated budget for the travel and accommodation expenses of EAGLES Forum DEC and EU members to represent and promote the EAGLES programme and its aims and activities at such strategically important international conferences.

3. The EAGLES Food Reports

EAGLES will commission a series of ten review reports (EAGLES Food Reports) on the major food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security issues affecting the DEC. The objective is to give an overview of research being done by Europe, show how effective is this work, and how the European programmes can be better coordinated and focussed.

Each report will

- concern a single issue;
- describe the incidence and impact of the issue;
- highlight recent achievements in combating the issue;
- describe the European research programmes on that issue;
- show how much money is being spent on European research programmes (including EC, national, private and public) and compare the scale of European, US and other countries programmes;
- assess the efficacy of the European programmes;
- involve international organisations such as CGIAR, ICGEB, UNIDO, ISAAA, FAO;
- involve established bioethics Symposia and their members, in particular the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies of the European Commission and Nuffield Council on Bioethics, especially in relation to its “*The use of genetically modified crops in developing countries: a follow-up Discussion Paper*”, January 2004 report.

Each report will be produced by teams of scientific, regulatory and bioethics experts from Europe and the DEC and draw heavily on the opinions of authorities from the DEC. The reports will be meta-studies, drawing on data which is largely readily available. They will be short, authoritative and in non-technical language aimed for a lay audience.

Priority will be given to reports on:

- the major cereals: rice, maize and wheat
- locally important staple crops: sorghum, millet, tapioca, cassava, potato
- major commodity crops: cotton, palm oil, soya, coffee, sugar cane, sugar beet

- local and export important crops: banana, cocoa, papaya, mango, squashes, etc
- major livestock: cattle, pig, chicken
- fish, crustacean and shellfish farming
- improved crop tolerances: drought, heat, cold, salinity, acidity, aluminium
- nutritionally enhanced crops: rice
- biopharmaceutical production
- phyto-bioremediation
- potential biomass crops for sustainable energy production

Reports will cover sectoral issues, for example:

- local capacity building
- global co-operation
- international trade relations
- patent protection and licensing

The EAGLES Food Reports will be widely publicised at a range of different levels:

- The reports will be distributed to the European Commission and to relevant national and international agencies;
- They will be submitted for publication in appropriate journals and on the web;
- The findings will be presented at major conferences including the EAGLES Food Symposia (see below);
- The findings will be summarised in articles distributed through the EAGLES Communications Office (see below) to newspapers, journals, radio and television;
- The findings will be presented at hearings of the relevant Symposia of the European Parliament and national parliaments etc;
- The findings will be promoted as the basis of radio and television programmes (which will not be funded by EAGLES).

The following tasks will be carried out by the EAGLES Food Communication Office:

- Seeking candidates to write the reports;
- Administering the selection process;
- Supervising the progress of the report;
- Receipt of the reports;
- Editing the first draft of reports;
- Interacting with the writers while editing;
- Sending the reports to external reviewers/authorities for review;
- Assessing and incorporating reviewers suggestions/comments;
- Arranging for their publication (in various media);
- Distribution and publicising.

Provision has therefore been made in the project's estimated budget for the writing, editing, printing and distribution of the EAGLES Food Reports.

4. The EAGLES Food Symposia

EAGLES Food Forum will organise an annual EAGLES Food Symposium commencing with the first to be held at the end of the first year of the project. The objective of each Symposium will be to present the state of research and current European programmes existing on major

food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security challenges in developing countries. Through multilateral stakeholders' dialogue the Symposia will provide recommendations on how European programmes and policies on food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security in developing countries and emerging economies can be improved.

The EAGLES Food Symposia will:

- focus on European responses to the global challenges posed by food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security in the developing world;
- draw half of the speakers from the DEC and half from Europe;
- bring together European opinion formers from many disciplines and leading authorities from the developing world;
- be attended by representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament, and national parliamentarians, civil servants, editors and journalists, writers, humanitarians and leaders of public interest organisations by invitation;
- address the ethical, global and political issues posed by food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security in the DEC;
- be relatively small (250 invitees) to maximise interaction and dialogue;
- present the EAGLES Food Reports;
- publish the Presentations and Executive Summary on the EAGLES website;
- print and circulate the Executive Summary and Recommendations to all relevant organisations and stakeholders through the Communication Office.

Three annual Symposia will be organised during the duration of the project at major scientific and governmental centres in Europe to maximise the aims of the EAGLES Food Forum. The venues will be decided later after due consultation, with Brussels as a high priority.

For the Symposia planning and organisation, the EAGLES Food Forum will draw on the experience of, and involve, the European Commission's European Group Life Sciences (EGLS) and BioVision World Life Sciences Forum, with both of which the EAGLES Food Forum has close, long-established relationships.

The EAGLES Food Symposia topics, programmes and speakers will be decided by the EAGLES Food Forum members at the beginning of the preparation for each annual event. These decisions will be based on the anticipated contemporary key issues at the time of the individual Symposium.

The practical organisation of the Symposia will be subcontracted to the appropriate local organiser who will have direct involvement with the EAGLES Food Forum. Provision has been made in the estimated budget of this proposal for the Symposia organisation and venue costs, speakers' travel and accommodation and the costs of report production and dissemination. Participants will pay for their own travel and accommodation. This accords with the practice for similar events organised by the European Commission and other international bodies.

The EGLS has held a number of very successful conferences and workshops, including the "*Towards sustainable agriculture for developing countries: Options from life sciences & biotechnologies*" conference on 30-31 January 2003 in Brussels. This conference was organised

by EAGLES members, Prof Marc van Montagu and Prof Patrick Cunningham, also members of the EAGLES Food Forum.

The BioVision World Life Sciences Forum, held every two years in Lyon with, in alternating years, BioVision.next and, in April 2004, the first BioVision Alexandria. The BioVision conferences with their science, industry and civil society basis and strong political and press representation have become established as the leading bioscience conferences of this type in Europe. Several EAGLES Forum members and the coordinator of this project have been involved with BioVision from its first conference in 1999. Dr Ismail Serageldin, Chairman of EAGLES and Vice-Chairman of BioVision, is hosting the first BioVision Alexandria conference at the Alexandria Library on 3-6 April 2004 during which EAGLES is organising a session entitled *“The Issue of Biotechnology and Sustainable Consumption: The Major Challenge for the 21st Century”*.

5. The EAGLES Food Workshops

EAGLES Food Workshops will review and define strategies on selected topics for subsequent development and implementation: A number of topics have been pre-selected for inclusion in this programme. These, together with their proposers and provisional venues, are:

1. ***“Information and communications technologies (ICT) and food security in sub-Saharan Africa; a new mode”*** proposed by Prof Sir Brian Heap and provisionally to be held at St Edmund’s College, Cambridge..
2. ***“The challenges presented by rapid industrialisation of livestock production in DECs”*** proposed by Prof Patrick Cunningham and to be held in China or Trinity College Dublin.
3. ***“Rice as a model to improve drought tolerance in cereals and food security in developing countries”*** proposed by Prof Roberto Tuberosa and provisionally to be held at the University of Bologna
4. ***“EAGLES Consortia: exchanges of PhD students between research groups in Europe and DECs”*** proposed by Prof Børge Diderichsen and provisionally to be held in Copenhagen.
5. ***“Initiatives to explore the development of Novel Protein Foods (NPFs) for developing countries”***, proposed by Dr Johan Sanders and provisionally to be held at Wageningen University, NL.

It is essential that all members of the EAGLES Food Forum from both the EU and DEC consult and collaborate in such decisions as the appropriateness and priority of topics for the EAGLES Food Workshops. Proposals for further topics especially from DEC proposers will be invited and welcomed. Therefore provision has been made in the estimated budget for this project for the holding of an initial series of four Workshops. The final selection of workshops will be made at the first meeting of the EAGLES Food Steering Committee meeting after consultation with Forum members. Separate funding will be sought for workshops on further topics identified and selected by the EAGLES Food Forum.

Workshops’ General Outline

Four one-and-a-half-day workshops will be held on the selected topics according to the common format and organisational arrangements described below:

Participants

Participants will be selected and invited by the proposers of each of the topics on the basis of their high levels of knowledge, experience and commitment in the specific field. In general, and with the aim of ensuring the representation of all stakeholders in the issues involved in food sufficiency, quality and safety and environmental security in relation to the specific topic, invitations will be made to leading knowledgeable, experienced and committed individuals from EU and developing country:

- Academic and research life science institutions
- Life science companies and trade associations
- Politicians and government officials
- Consumer, environmental and patient organisation representatives
- Regulatory affairs specialists
- Ethicists
- Life science communication specialists
- Journalists and the media

Organisation

Practical organisation of the workshops together with the production and dissemination of their reports will be carried out by the EAGLES Food Communication Office. The workshops will be conducted in the manner of focus group discussions under the guidance of an experienced moderator.

For each of the workshops two separate planning meetings will be held with the proposers and appropriate local collaborators together with the coordinator of the project for detailed local planning, coordination between workshops and to monitor local progress.

A set of briefing documents will be prepared for each workshop and circulated together with the agenda and details of the venue, accommodation and travel arrangements to the workshop participants beforehand by email. The briefing documents will include the presentations of each speaker supplemented with copies and listings of relevant key publications and sources of further information.

Each workshop will terminate with a discussion following which a “Summary Statement” will be drafted, agreed and used both for immediate dissemination and as the recommendations from that workshop. The workshop presentations and discussions will be recorded and edited for the workshop report which will be published in printed and electronic form on the EAGLES and other websites.

Venues, dates and advance planning

Venues will be selected because they will provide both a meeting room with suitable facilities and ambience together with accommodation and meals for participants which is important in encouraging the informal social interaction much conducive to the workshop’s success and results.

It is planned that the four workshops will be held after Commission procedures following a minimum advance time of four months for detailed planning, invitation of participants and venue arrangements, the four workshops will be held within a period of six months.

Preliminary programme

An outline of the preliminary generalised programme which will be similar for all four the workshops is given below. Effort will be made to hold the workshops at the beginning or end of weeks or during weekends in order to take advantage of APEX fares and for the convenience of participants to minimise their time commitment.

Day 1 evening

- Informal dinner for discussion as a social introduction to the workshop, latecomers joining

Day 2

- Welcome from the Chair and brief *tour de table* introductions
- Introduction and ground rules for the workshop from the moderator
- Presentations by each of the main speakers (20 minutes with 10 minute Q&A on topics arising directly from the presentation)
- Plenary discussion ranging over all presentations
- Brief setting out of aim and *modus operandi* for the following morning's work
- Dinner

Day 3 to lunchtime

- Brief restatement of aim and *modus operandi* for the morning's work
- Cross-discussion of "Where and how do we go from here?"
- Coffee during which a Summary Statement including recommendations is drafted by 2-3 rapporteurs
- Discussion, adjustment and approval of Summary Statement and dissemination of results
- Close and buffet lunch if required

Workplan time scheduling

Month 0	Commencement Convene initial steering committee meeting and planning meetings. Book venues
Month 1	Initial steering committee meeting Draw up delegate and speaker lists
Month 2	First planning meetings Select and invite speakers and delegates Draw up briefing for delegates
Month 3	Second planning meetings Review and confirm all arrangements
Months 3-4	Process registrations, accommodation bookings, etc Circulate briefing materials to speakers and delegates
Months 5-6	Workshops Dissemination of Summary Statements
Month 8	Draft reports for each workshop completed Editing under way
Month 10	Overall reports finalised and agreed
Month 11	Publication and dissemination of reports in paper and electronic form