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Scenario Building Workshop - Interplay of problem framings

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Outline

- Basic understanding of scenario building workshop
- Reflecting the background
- Differences between scenario building workshops and scenario workshops
- Objectives of scenario building workshops
- Incorporation of different problem framings in this approach

Definition of scenario building workshops

- Conceptualisation of future developments of a technological or societal topic by laypeople in a structured proceeding.
- Achievements of these workshops should be consistent and coherent descriptions of possible futures of GM plants and food.

Background I

Discourse activities on genetically modified crops and food

- focused on first generation of GM crops
- centred up to current debates of risks and benefits
- scenarios were not used

Background II

Scenario building

- mainly a scientific exercise
- partly involvement of stakeholders
- no laypeople

Comparison of scenario workshop and scenario building workshop

Scenario workshop

Starting with scenarios,
local action plan as result

Local actors (stakeholders)

Local management + policies

Scenario building workshop

Driving forces as starting point,
scenarios are end-result

Laypeople

Shaping of controversial
technological + societal issues

Objectives of discourse project “scenario building workshops”

- Enable workshop participants to form an opinion and to participate in future societal debates on green genetic engineering
- Contribution to debates on future shaping of research on green genetic engineering with the workshop-generated scenarios
- Methodical contribution to development and implementation of discursive methods

Intended outcomes for the participants

- Learning and opinion formation about GM plants and food, including:
 - appreciation of open future developments
 - understanding of different problem framings and their interaction
- Contributing their assessment of possible future developments in the area of GM plants and food

Problem framing in the context of pre-information („fact sheets”)

Different problem framings achieved through

- range of topics
- content
- procedure

Fact sheets – range of topics

- Genetic engineering technologies and areas of application in agriculture and food production
- Framing conditions for future developments
- Regulations of genetic engineering
- Dimensions of impacts
- Ethical questions

Fact sheets - content

- State of knowledge
- Divergent assessments of important social actors

Fact sheets – Drafting and review procedure

- First version by project group (with internal comment rounds)
- External review by scientists and stakeholders
- Revision and finalisation of the fact sheets by project group

Structure of scenario building workshops

- Warm-up + principles of the workshop
- Identification and grouping of driving forces
- Selection of key driving forces
- Possible future developments of the key driving forces
- Grouping to scenarios
- Characteristics of the scenarios

Results of the scenario building workshops

- Contribution in the debate on the further direction of research and policy in the area of GM plants and food
- Possibility to confront the problem framing and perspectives of scientists and stakeholder with the problem framing and future assessment by laypeople