

# UNIQUE IAS STUDY CIRCLE

## UPSC Q.C.A

Q. What is bio-safety? How Cartagena protocol addresses such issues?

Ans. Recent and current advancements in bio-technology has compelled the human race to give importance to biosafety. It is the prevention of humans from any unfortunate aspect of bio-technology, specially in genetic engineering.

Bio-~~the~~ safety works on the principal of 'prevention is better than cure' as humans have till now not been able to understand genetics fully and one can't be fully sure that bio-engineering could be danger free.

concerns in bio-safety:-

- development of fatal enzymes could be ~~done~~ <sup>used</sup> for warfare.
- spread of diseases or formation of new diseases without intent.
- lack of knowledge in the usage of biotechnology in poor countries can prove disastrous.

Cartagena Protocol

is an international agreement of biosafety, effective since 2003.

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Solution of concerns by means of this protocol

- Total of 171 signatories who accept the regulation of trade of genetically modified organisms between countries.
- Based on precautionary measures like
  - letting countries ban import of GMOs.
  - isolating GMO consignment by marking precautions.
  - educating developing nations in the usage of biotechnology.
- establishing Biosafety Clearing house to :-
  - facilitate transfer of knowledge
  - legal information
  - concerns of bio-safety, information.

Biotechnology and genetic engineering are a part of human development but we must make preventive measures on bio-safety before it's too late.