

Chinese and Indian Perspectives on Biotech Security Risk

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Carnegie's Washington-DC based Technology and International Affairs Program develops strategies to maximize the positive potential of emerging technologies—like information technology, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence—while reducing risks of large-scale misuse or harm.

India is at the forefront of countries pursuing profound benefits from new biotechnologies, including gene editing. Our nation has much to offer and gain from the positive uses of these technologies: combating antibiotic resistance, facilitating agriculture, preventing the spread of many infectious diseases. However, in India as in other countries, such technologies also raise some concerns that they could be used to cause harm as well as benefits.

Global health and biosecurity are international in nature, but individual countries have unique national contexts, viewpoints, concerns, and ideas about these issues. Through its research network in Delhi and Beijing, Carnegie has launched a new project, “Chinese and Indian Perspectives on Biotech Security Risk,” to better understand how stakeholders in these countries view both the positive potential and the risks of evolving biotechnologies. This project is generously supported by the Open Philanthropy Project.

Over the next eighteen months, the project plans to engage a wide range of stakeholders in industry, academia, and government. We will conduct interviews, hold small workshops, and develop analysis on key biosecurity topics like biosafety, pandemic preparedness, synthetic biology, bioinformatics, regulation and governance, and bioterrorism. The Carnegie Endowment hopes that this research will expand understanding of Indian viewpoints and ideas on these issues, and eventually offer new opportunities for both national conversation and international cooperation.