

GLOBALLY, TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED BY SECTORS THAT CONSUME DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$1,560 BILLION IN 2024. IT IS LIKELY TO TOUCH \$2,331 BILLION BY 2030

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

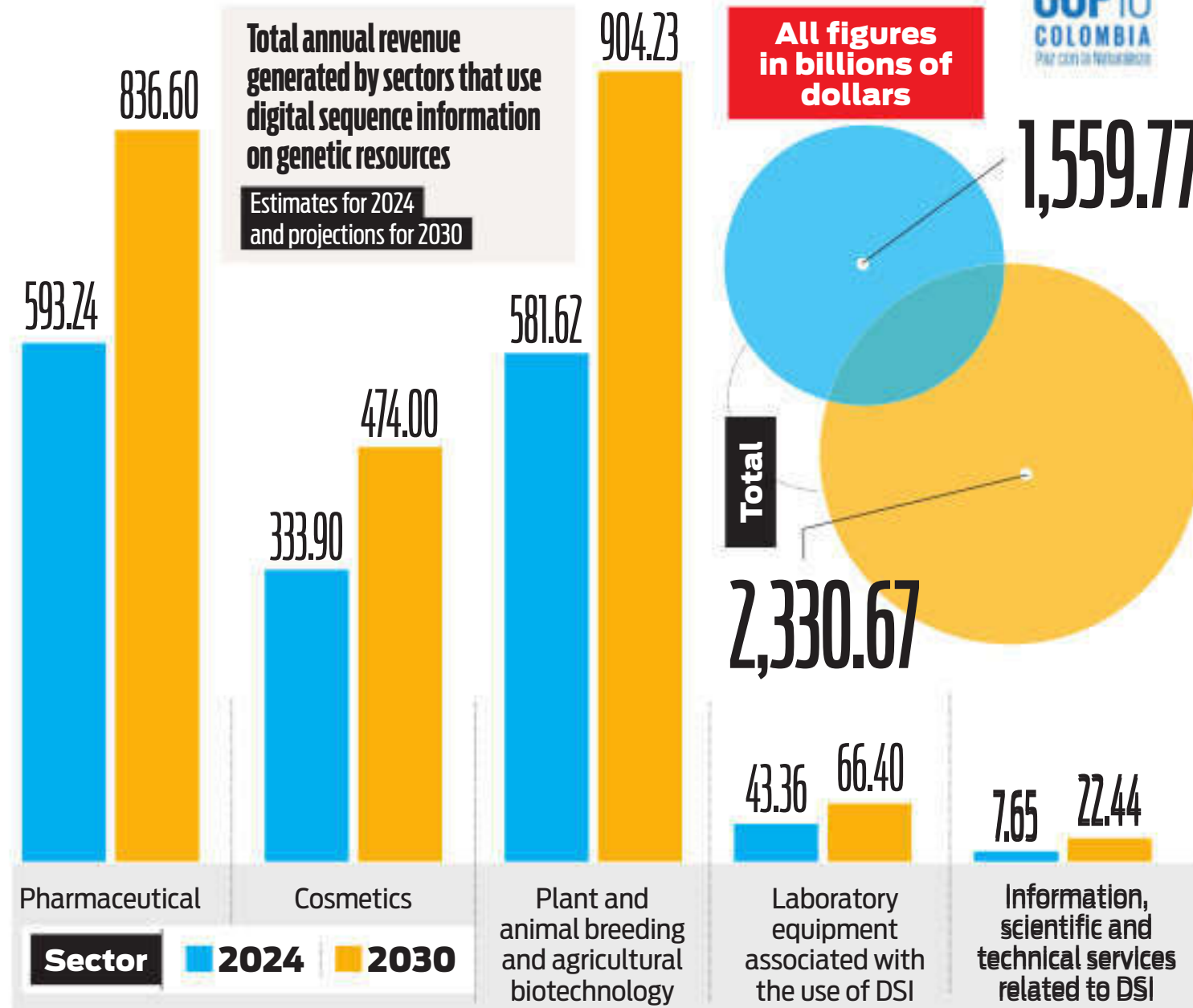
PRICE TAG COMING FOR USING DIGITAL GENETIC RESOURCES. FINAL CALL AT COP16

IN 2022, an important discussion to establish a new multilateral mechanism, including creating a global fund, was initiated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The aim was to address the longstanding issue of inequitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources, particularly focusing on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) derived from plants, animals and microbes.

An ad hoc open-ended working group was formed for further development and commissioning of a study to analyse and model the extent to which a multilateral mechanism can induce benefit sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources. It was also tasked to make recommendations to the COP16, to be held in Cali, Colombia later this year.

After two years of negotiations and consultations, the United Nations has published the documents, including a synthesis report containing a draft recommendation, which will be placed before nations when they meet in Montreal six weeks from now in August for final negotiations in the DSI intergovernmental negotiating group before the matter comes up for decision at the UN biodiversity conference (COP16) in October in Colombia. The UN documents, reviewed by TNIE, reveal that the global total revenue generated by sectors that use DSI on genetic resources is estimated to be \$1,560 billion in 2024 and is likely to touch \$2,331 billion by 2030. DSI is a digital version of the DNA of plants, animals and microbes (such as bacteria). Scientists identify genes to help create or improve medicines, skincare products, foods and nutritional supplements, feed for animals, bioplastics, and textiles, among other products. Once a useful gene is found, scientists can create a version in the lab and insert it into microbes like bacteria or yeast, which then act like tiny factories, using the new genetic instructions to produce the desired compounds.

Reflecting on the study, the Co-Chairs of the negotiations, Mphatso Kalemba of Malawi and William Lockhart of the UK note that sectors that depend most on DSI generate "one to a few trillion dollars annually" and even 0.1% of \$1 trillion would yield \$1 billion for the global fund; 1% would amount to \$10 billion. It is important to take into account the rights of indigenous people and local communities, including with respect to



the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that they hold. So, the envisioned uses of the funds, both monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of DSI on genetic resources, should include supporting the conservation and sustainable use of nature, experts feel.

WHO SHOULD PAY

Central to the proposed multilateral mechanism is a tiered approach to contributions, targeting large multinational corporations that derive significant revenue from DSI-dependent products. It proposes that these companies contribute a proportionate share of their earnings to the global fund. This approach, while ambitious, aims to strike a balance between encouraging participation and avoiding undue economic burdens that could stifle innovation or inflate consumer prices.

David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD, said: "Until now, users of information on genetic resources have shared little of the profits generated from their use. We have faith that the goodwill and positive and constructive spirit of compromise Parties have shown to date on this issue will continue through the negotiations in Montreal and Cali."

New study shows fake narratives peddled by fossil fuel behemoths for over five decades delayed the global energy transition

Lies, damn lies, oil cartels

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

A NEW report reveals how big and powerful oil and gas companies had spun unscientific narratives over the past five decades to derail the global energy transition's journey towards clean fuel. Over that time scale, cumulative emissions of greenhouse gases by these fossil fuel companies accounted for as much as 18% of the world's total CO2 emissions.

The report, "How the Oil Industry Has Sustained Market Dominance Through Policy Influence - A Historical Analysis of the Oil and Gas Playbook Against Renewables and Electric Vehicles," by the UK-based independent environment think tank InfluenceMap, investigated the strategies adopted by the fossil fuel industry to block science-based climate policy action. Their strategies undermining energy transition away from fossil fuels to zero-carbon alternatives such as renewable energy and electric vehicles, had three prongs: scepticism over alternatives, policy neutrality, and raising questions over energy security and affordability. The report underlines that the world's most powerful oil and gas industry associations developed a playbook to oppose, weaken and delay the global energy transition and has been using it since 1967. They formed powerful associations of fossil fuels companies across the globe to peddle their narratives.

The spin doctoring began with the American Petroleum Institute (API), which represents all of America's oil and natural gas industry. Fuels Europe (FE) and Fuels Industry UK (FIUK) picked up the thread and pushed the narrative in their respective regions. They all likely succeeded in delaying the energy transition and continue to pose a serious threat to policy progress on climate change, the

report contends.

The new report identifies and analyses the three broad categories of arguments these associations consistently used in their advocacy, all of which contradict science-based policy as set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the

International Energy Agency. The lobby employed narratives to oppose various climate policies, despite the fact that the scientific community, policymakers, and the public advanced their understanding of the climate crisis and its causes.

The analysis utilises a dataset compiled by Dario Kenner, a visiting research fellow at the University of Sussex. It includes over 50 detailed instances of the API, FE and FIUK where these unscientific narratives were used in their advocacy against alternatives to fossil fuels between 1967 and 2021. Additional data from 2021 to 2023 was collected by InfluenceMap to ensure that the analysis is up-to-date. The entire dataset was then studied to identify narrative trends.

The earliest evidence in the dataset from 1967 to 1992, relates solely to the API where it can be seen using all three narratives. Evidence in the dataset for FE and FIUK begins in 1993 and 2013, respectively. "Many oil and gas companies justify their significant scope 3 emissions by pointing to consumer demand, claiming it's beyond their control," said Tom Holen, InfluenceMap program manager for the Energy Transition at InfluenceMap.

"However, this report challenges this narrative by uncovering a strategic playbook designed to protect and sustain the societal and market forces favouring fossil fuels. This long-standing use of misleading narratives has likely delayed the energy transition for decades and continues to pose a serious threat to climate policy progress," he added.

UNSCIENTIFIC NARRATIVES USED BY FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES

1 Solution Skepticism: Systematically downplays the potential impact and viability of alternative energy sources, casting doubt on their efficacy while emphasising challenges and uncertainties. It includes arguments that stir skepticism around issues associated with the use of fossil fuels

2 Policy Neutral: Used to oppose policy that promotes solely alternatives to fossil fuels. Instead, it promotes consumer choice, market solutions and minimal government intervention

3 Affordability and Energy Security: Stress on the importance of maintaining cost-effective and secure energy supplies. Fossil fuels are presented as central to both causes, while a shift to technology alternatives is framed as a significant risk

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Tender Enquiry No. 13/CE/P&M/2024-25. CE/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Manufacturing, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 5 no. Leaky insulator Detectors as per PSPCL Specifications.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Tender Enquiry No. 316/SS(D)-II. Dated: 12.07.2024. Dy.CE/Substation Design / TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 66kV SF6 Circuit Breakers.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Tender Enquiry No. QQ-1331/PO-C&S Dt 12.07.2024. Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites e-tender for procurement of Heat Shrinkable Type Cable End Termination and Straight Through Joint Kits suitable for all the 251 11kV HT XLPE Cables.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSCL). PUBLIC NOTICE. As a part of Government of Andhra Pradesh for distribution of RG Dall under PDS/ICDS/Take Home Ration schemes, a tender document on supply of 22,500 MTs of RG Dall in 1Kg packet form to all the 251 M.L.S points of APSCSCL in 26 districts across the Andhra Pradesh for a period of 3 months i.e from August 2024 to October 2024 has been submitted to the Judicial Preview.

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