



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY

ICGEB, under the auspices of its Biosafety Capacity Building Project for sub-Saharan Africa, is pleased to bring to your attention the forthcoming biosafety workshop

“Theoretical Approaches and their Practical Applications in the Risk Assessment for the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Plants”

Hermanus (140 km from Cape Town), South Africa, 22-26 March 2010

Application deadline: 14 December 2009

Website: <http://www.icgeb.org/biosafety/training/future.html>

The workshop

As many countries are in the process of developing or implementing their national biosafety frameworks, this workshop aims to provide experience in the examination of scientific and technical data submitted in applications for the deliberate release of genetically modified (GM) plants. A general background of the major concepts and practices involved in risk analysis, centring around the comparative approach and problem formulation, will be given. This will then form the basis for evaluations of presented case studies. Participants will be required to actively participate in the evaluation of each case study, with the assistance of teaching personnel.

Eligibility criteria

Scientists involved in research related to the release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and officers or designated experts working in the area of GMO risk assessment at an official level (governmental agencies, scientific institutions, private sector, etc.). Priority will be given to applications supported in writing by the appropriate government ministry/ies and/or National Competent Authorities.

Applicants must be nationals of, and working in, a sub-Saharan African country.

Course content

The course has a duration of 5 days and the programme will cover the following major topics:

1. The role of risk analysis in GMO decision-making
2. Comparative approaches to safety assessment
3. Elaboration of problem formulation
4. Practical confinement strategies
5. Post-commercial release risk management options
6. Practical sessions in the risk assessment of GM plants

Course language

The course will be taught in English.

Candidate Selection

Successful candidates will be selected on the basis of:

- their current position and duties
- the usefulness of the course training to them
- the potential of the candidate to disseminate the course information and training further
- supporting recommendation(s) from the National Competent Authority/ies

Financial support

ICGEB will cover the major costs relating to travel, hotel, meals and transportation of a limited number of selected applicants, including international flights (round trip, economy class) to South Africa. Please note that no *per diems* will be provided.

How to apply

Applications must comprise a completed application form (<http://www.icgeb.org/biosafety/training/future.html>) accompanied by the specified requested documentation only, and be sent in a single Email communication to the ICGEB Project Manager (africabu@icgeb.org; (subject line - South Africa workshop). **Only applications adhering to these simple instructions will be considered.**

- * All applications must be received by 14 December 2009
- * Successful applicants will be notified by 18 December 2009
- * Course dates: 22-26 March 2010
- * Course venue: To be advised

About the Biosafety Capacity Building Project for sub-Saharan Africa

The ICGEB has been awarded a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help support the development of effective safety and regulatory systems for biotechnology in sub-Saharan Africa. The ICGEB, working primarily out of its Cape Town facility, is creating regional focal points on biosafety, organising practical workshops, offering fellowships and providing funds to encourage participation in regional and international conferences, developing and fostering links with the international scientific community. Further details can be found at http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/pdf/files/%20ICGEB_Gates.pdf.

About the ICGEB

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is an intergovernmental organisation established within the United Nations system with the aim of providing a centre of excellence for research and training in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety, with special attention to the needs of the developing world. Further details can be found at <http://www.icgeb.org>.