

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

“Introduction to GMO Biosafety Risk Assessment”

hosted by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Makerere University, Kabanyolo Campus, Kampala, Uganda, 19-23 October 2009.

Application deadline: 18 September 2009

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

The workshop

Since many Eastern African countries are currently involved in research and development of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), this course is designed to provide participants with an introduction to key biosafety issues significant to GMO risk assessment, such that they will acquire basic skills in the use of scientific data to draw balanced and science-based conclusions regarding the experimental release of GMOs. The week-long training will take the form of lectures, demonstrations, group work, discussions, field visit, as well as evaluations of risk assessment dossiers.

Eligibility criteria

The course is aimed at biosafety regulatory officials (e.g. regulators, officers and scientists working in National Competent Authorities, Scientific Advisory Committees, institutional biosafety committees, and phytosanitary services) and agricultural biotechnology researchers. The course is also open to local community leaders. Priority will be given to applications supported in writing by the appropriate government ministry and/or National Competent Authorities.

Applicants must be nationals of a sub-Saharan African country.

Course contents

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

1. Biosafety in a legal and regulatory context, emphasis on Africa;
2. Introduction to the authorisation process;
3. Introduction to risk analysis and problem formulation, the assessment and management of identified risks to humans and the environment;
4. Basic principles of agricultural biotechnological techniques and introduction to traits of interest;
5. Experimental design for field release of transgenic crops
6. Ecosystem services, biodiversity & GM impacts. Why and how to select species for testing;
7. Gene flow – dynamics and detection;
8. Management and post-release monitoring specific to confined field trials

Course language

The course will be taught in English

Candidate Selection

Successful candidates will be selected on the basis of:

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

Financial support

ICGEB will cover the costs (travel costs, hotel, meals and transportation) of a limited number of selected applicants

How to apply

All applications must be submitted using the application form (<http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/training/future.html>). Completed application forms should be sent electronically to:

The ICGEB Project Manager, africabu@icgeb.org (subject line: Uganda workshop)

- * All applications must be received by 18 September 2009
- * Successful applicants will be notified 25 September 2009
- * Course dates: 19-23 October 2009
- * Course venue : Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Makerere University, Kabanyolo Campus, Kampala, Uganda

About the Biosafety Capacity Building Project for sub-Saharan Africa

The ICGEB was recently 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 new 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 in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety. Further details can be found at <http://www.icgeb.org>.