

South Asia Biosafety Program

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INDIA

New Biosafety Portal Launched: Moving Agricultural Biotechnology Forward in India



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) have developed a cooperative program with the aim to improve ICAR's institutional capacity in biosafety. In collaboration with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) and the ILSI Research Foundation, a new biosafety portal was launched on April 13, 2016 during a special workshop for the Institutional Biosafety Officers.

Stay tuned for next month's SABP newsletter to learn more about this resource which will be used to strengthen compliance within the regulatory framework and also to facilitate research and development of agricultural biotechnology activities in ICAR for the benefit of farmers and society.

Registration is Open

4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference
September 19-21, 2016
Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India

The South Asia Biosafety Conference is an opportunity to hear from leading scientists representing regulatory agencies, public sector research institutions, and the private sector in South Asia and internationally.

For more details and registration information, please see pages 6-8 or visit <http://sabc.biotech.co.in>

Understanding, Opportunities and Responsibilities of the National Agricultural Research Centers

Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka and Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program, Dhaka



On March 14, 2016, a seminar titled “Biosafety in the Context of National Agricultural Research Centers: Understanding, Opportunities and Responsibilities” was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Joydebpur, Gazipur, Bangladesh. Approximately 50 participants attended the seminar, including scientists from the Biotechnology and Plant Breeding Divisions of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of BARI and the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

The seminar began with the welcoming address of Dr. M.A. Yousuf Akhond, PSO, Biotechnology Division, BARI. After the welcoming address, Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Bangladesh Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) introduced Dr. Andrew Roberts, Director, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, and gave a short overview on the SABP activities being carried out in Bangladesh and India.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Director General, BARI, highlighted relevant biotechnology activities, including the work on the fruit and shoot borer resistant *Bt* brinjal and the late blight resistant potato.

Dr. Roberts introduced the program areas and global activities of the ILSI Research Foundation and SABP. He shared that the regulation of biotechnology allows for the safe development and use

of beneficial products, including genetically modified (GM) plants. However, he cautioned that too often researchers do not think about biosafety regulation until they are ready to apply for confined field trials or environmental release. He suggested that the considerations of biosafety should be linked to research from the beginning. This includes understanding the proper stewardship of GM plants in the laboratory and greenhouse as well as being considerate of where the data that informs a regulatory submission comes from. Dr. Roberts also pointed out that by integrating biosafety considerations into the early planning and development phases of research programs and having a consistent presence throughout the product development cycle, public sector research institutions can more effectively deliver research products into farmers fields.

Concluding his talk, Dr. Roberts mentioned that SABP would like to work with national agricultural research centers in Bangladesh to help improve understanding of biosafety principles and make sure that researchers are engaged in the biosafety process. After the presentation a lively discussion was held. In her final remark as the Chair, Dr. Bhagya Rani Banik, Director (T&C), BARI, thanked Dr. Roberts for his presentation. She also thanked all participants, especially the BRRI scientists, for their active participation in this important seminar.

“By integrating biosafety considerations into the early planning and development phases of research programs and having a consistent presence throughout the product development cycle, public sector research institutions can more effectively deliver research products into farmers fields.”

Feedback Received on the Bangladesh Biosafety Regulatory Process Guidance Document

Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka and Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program, Dhaka



A stakeholder consultation workshop was organized by the Implementation of National Biosafety Framework Project (INBF) of the Department of Environment (DOE) and the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) on March 12-13, 2016 at the AMARI Hotel, Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This workshop was organized based on the recommendation of the Biosafety Core Committee (BCC) meeting held on December 15, 2015. The purpose of this workshop was to finalize the drafted Bangladesh Biosafety Regulatory Process Guidance prepared during prior consultation meetings.

Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, graced the

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inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) was present as the Special Guest. Mr. Md. Raisul Alam Mondal, Director General, DOE, chaired the workshop. The welcoming address was offered by Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning), DOE & Project Director, INBF Project. Dr. Andrew Roberts, Director, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, gave an overview on the workshop objectives.

During their addresses, the invited guests highlighted the importance of the Bangladesh Biosafety Regulatory Process Guidance and expressed encouragement that through the efforts during this workshop the drafted document would be updated for users and regulators to find useful. The inaugural ceremony ended with a vote of thanks offered by Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Bangladesh Country Coordinator, SABP.

Approximately 31 participants attended the workshop, representing: BCC; BRAC University; Cotton Development Board (CDB); Dhaka

University; DOE; International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); Ministry of Environment and Forests; Ministry of Health; National Agricultural Research Institutes, including BARI, BRRI, BSRI and BARC; National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB); and private sector biotechnology companies like ACI and Supreme Seeds.

During the workshop, Dr. Roberts presented the Bangladesh Biosafety Regulatory Process Guidance. A threadbare discussion followed on various sections of the document, especially focusing on the different flow charts. Based on the existing Biosafety Guidelines and Biosafety Rules, several suggestions were made by the participants.

The workshop participants recommended that Dr. Roberts compile all of the suggestions and distribute them among the participants for their final endorsement. It was also agreed that this final Bangladesh Biosafety Regulatory Process Guidance may be published by the Department of Environment through their administrative order.

BHUTAN

Bhutan's Biosafety Technical Working Group Develops Biosafety Regulations

Ms. Tashi Yangzom, Regulatory and Quarantine Officer, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu



Bhutan enacted the Biosafety Act of Bhutan 2015 in July 2015. The Biosafety Rules and Regulations of Bhutan is being developed for its implementation. A series of stakeholder consultations at various levels lead by Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) were carried out to fine tune and finalize the draft Biosafety Regulation.

The latest Biosafety Technical Working Group (BTWG) workshop organized by BAFRA was held March 9, 2016 in Thimphu to further discuss the draft Biosafety Rules and Regulations. Dr. Sangay Wangchuk, Nature Conservation Specialist, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry Of Agriculture And Forests (MoAF), served as the facilitator. This workshop was attended by representatives from the National Biodiversity Center, MoAF; the Department of Livestock, MoAF; the Department of

Agriculture, MoAF; the Royal Center for Disease Control, Ministry of Health; the National Environment Commission; the Royal University of Bhutan; the Council of RNR Research of Bhutan; the National Food Testing Laboratory, and BAFRA, MoAF.

The meeting reviewed the revised version of the Biosafety Rules and Regulations of Bhutan and provided practical recommendations for effective implementation of biosafety. The workshop recommended that the draft Biosafety Rules and Regulations be discussed in the upcoming Biosafety Consultation Workshop with wider representations of both the government implementers and technical advisory groups. Therefore, the final draft will be formalized within the following months.

| EVENT | ORGANIZED BY | DATE | WEBSITE |
|--|--|---|--|
| INDIA | | | |
| International Conference on Food, Water, Energy Nexus in Arena of Climate Change | Anand Agricultural University and National Council for Climate Change Sustainable Development and Public Leadership (NCCSD) | October 14-16, 2016 Anand, Gujarat | http://bit.ly/1qpcp1y |
| International Conference on "Pulses for Nutritional Security and Agricultural Sustainability" | Indian Society of Pulse Research and Development in association with Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur | November 12-14, 2016 New Delhi | www.iipr.res.in/pdf/events_201115.pdf |
| International Conferences on Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods – The Challenges and Opportunities along with The XIII Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists | Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists, C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur and Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat | December 6-8, 2016 Anand, Gujarat | http://bit.ly/1qpcq5H |
| INTERNATIONAL | | | |
| BIO International Convention | Biotechnology Innovation Organization | June 6-9, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA | http://convention.bio.org/ |
| 4 th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference | SABP, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) | September 19-21, 2016 Hyderabad, India | http://sabc.biotech.co.in/ |

Interested in contributing to the SABP Newsletter?

The SABP Newsletter, published monthly, is distributed to over 10,000 regulators, scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders interested in agricultural biotechnology in South Asia. Each edition includes editorials, information about biosafety regulation and policy developments in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, SABP and other capacity building activities in the region, and related science or news stories. All contributions to the newsletter should have a clear connection to the mission of SABP, relate to South Asia and cannot be promotional. For more information or for your article to be considered, please email Libby Williams at lwilliams@ilsil.org.



The South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) is an international developmental program implemented in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan with support from the United States Agency for International Development. SABP aims to work with national governmental agencies and other public sector partners to facilitate the implementation of transparent, efficient and responsive regulatory frameworks for products of modern biotechnology that meet national goals as regards the safety of novel foods and feeds, and environmental protection.



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To receive an electronic copy of this newsletter send your name, institutional information and e-mail address to: vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



The South Asia Biosafety Conference is an opportunity to hear from leading scientists representing regulatory agencies, public sector research institutions, and the private sector in South Asia and internationally. The conference will be held at the Taj Krishna, Road Number 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034, India.

September 19, 2016

Delegate Registration and Inaugural Ceremony
Plenary Session I: Regulation of Biotechnology in South Asia
Parallel Session I: Research and Development in South Asia
Parallel Session II: Research Efforts to Address Climate Change
Poster Session

Conference participants are encouraged to share their work with colleagues by preparing a poster for this session. Poster abstracts should be submitted at the time of registration and no later than September 1, 2016.

September 20, 2016

Plenary Session II: New Technologies in GE Development
Facility Visits

September 21, 2016

Plenary Session III: Meeting Regulatory Challenges and Approaches to Regulatory Support
Poster Session Awards
Plenary Session IV: Dossier Preparation: Planning and Generation of Regulatory Data

For more details and registration information, please visit <http://sabc.biotech.co.in>

Follow along to @CERA_ILSI on Twitter to see live tweets during the conference! #SABC2016



Registration Form

4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



Registrations are limited to 100 for the conference. Registrants that cannot be accommodated will be added to a waitlist, and notified if space becomes available.

Attach mailing label from brochure,
or your business card.

Name Preferred on Badge _____

Complete the following if the information on the mailing label is incorrect or no label is provided.

Registrant is:

Gender Male Female

Title Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

Last/Surname _____

Job Title _____

Employer/Company/Institution _____

Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Telephone _____

Facsimile _____

E-mail _____

Registration*

| Category | Fee | |
|---|--|-------|
| | INR | US\$ |
| Industry | Rs. 6,500/- | \$100 |
| Research Institution, Universities, Individual Experts | Rs. 3,500/- | \$50 |
| Students | Rs. 2,700/- | \$40 |
| BCIL Biotech Club Members | 25% discount | |
| Additional delegates from same organization (except students) | 25% discount | |
| Government Departments and Ministries | No fee up to two nominations and Rs. 2,000/- each for additional nomination. Registration must be submitted through email to vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in and confirmed by organizers. No online registration. | |

*No free on-the-spot registrations.

In case you face difficulty in online registration, please download the registration form and send it to us along with payment through bank transfer. The details for Bank Transfer are as follows:

Beneficiary Name: Biotech Consortium India Limited

Account Number : 00032320008527

IFSC Code : HDFC0000003 (HDFC Bank Limited)

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Registration cancellations must be made in writing and received by BCIL no later than September 1, 2016. Cancellations received by this date are subject to a 20% processing fee. Registration and ticketed event cancellations received after September 1, 2016, are NOT subject to a refund.

Registration forms should be sent to:

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager
Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL)
Anuvrat Bhawan, 5th Floor
210, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg
New Delhi - 110 002
Telephone Number +91-11-23219064-67 (Ext. 204; 205);
23219059(D)
Fax Number +91-11-23219063
Email: vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in; vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

Poster Program Abstract Submission Form

4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



THE 4TH ANNUAL SOUTH ASIA BIOSAFETY CONFERENCE POSTER PROGRAM is an opportunity for individuals to share their research, findings and achievements with colleagues at the conference. Presenting a poster is a noteworthy way to share expertise or accomplishment, and poster presenters will have a dedicated time to present and discuss their work with the diverse group of attendees.

All poster abstracts must convey relevance to biosafety research, risk assessment, or regulation of genetically modified organisms (including programs or activities to improve capacity and knowledge generation).

The following are some suggestions about poster abstracts that will contribute to ensuring the readability and quality of the submission. Abstracts of accepted posters will be included as part of the conference onsite program and will be published as submitted, without content editing.

- Check for proper spelling and grammar.
- Use a standard typeface such as Times Roman with a font size of 12.
- Begin sentences with words (not numbers).
- Standard abbreviations may be used without definition, but nonstandard abbreviations/acronyms should be placed in parentheses after the first use of the terminology. It is important to keep nonstandard abbreviations/acronyms to a minimum, to allow for readability and understanding.
- Do not include tables, figures, or graphs in the abstract. Such content is appropriate for the poster.
- Limit the abstract to 300 words.
- Try to organize the abstract with the following headings where appropriate: purpose, methods, results, conclusions (e.g., for research projects) OR purpose, description, evaluation and outcomes (e.g., for capacity building projects).

Space is limited. Posters will be considered on a first come, first served basis, based on the relevance to the program. Select abstracts will be given an opportunity to present their research during a lightning round during the conference.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM FOR POSTER PROGRAM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND E-MAIL IT TO lwilliams@ilsa.org AND COPIED TO vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in.

You will receive a return email acknowledging receipt of your abstract and subsequently a second email informing you if your poster has been accepted for the conference poster program.

I. Lead Presenter

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Institution and Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone Number: _____

(NOTE: Poster Presenters must register for the 4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference. If an abstract is received from an author who is not registered, the abstract will NOT be included in the review process).

II. Poster Title: _____

Poster Authors: _____

(NOTE: list all poster authors including their name, organization, address and e-mail. Separate authors with a semi-colon and please INCLUDE the lead presenter also).

III. Poster Abstract (maximum 300 words)

Accommodations and Travel

4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



CONFERENCE LOCATION

The 4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference will be held at the Taj Krishna, Road Number 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034, India.

ACCOMMODATIONS

| NAME OF THE HOTEL | ADDRESS | PRICE SINGLE OCCUPANCY | PRICE DOUBLE OCCUPANCY | CONTACT |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Taj Krishna | Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 Telangana | Rs. 10000/- Price includes taxes, breakfast, airport pick up/drop off and Wi-Fi. | Rs. 11000/- Price includes taxes, breakfast, airport pick up/drop off and Wi-Fi. | tkhresv.hyd@tajhotels.com |
| Taj Deccan | Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 Telangana | Rs. 6000/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | Rs. 7000/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | tdhresv.hyd@tajhotels.com |
| Taj Banjara | Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 Telangana | Rs. 5750/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | Rs. 6750/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | tdhresv.hyd@tajhotels.com |
| Hotel NKM's Grand | 6-3-563/31/1, Off Taj Deccan Road, Erramanzil, Somajiguda Hyderabad-500082 Telangana | Rs. 3,200/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | Rs. 4,000/- Price includes taxes, breakfast and Wi-Fi. | reservation@nkmsggrand.com |

For assistance with your accommodations, please contact Dr. Vibha Ahuja at vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in.

VISAS

For assistance with obtaining your visa, please contact Dr. Vibha Ahuja at vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the conversation on social media with @CERA_ILSI. #SABC2016 is the preferred hashtag for the 4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference.