

South Asia Biosafety Program

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Poster Program Prizes Announced

**5th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference
September 11-13, 2017
Taj West End, Bangalore, India**

The 5th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference Poster Program provides an opportunity for individuals to share their research, findings and achievements with colleagues at the conference on September 11-13, 2017 in Bangalore, India. Poster presenters will have a dedicated time to present and discuss their work with the diverse group of conference attendees.

Prizes

All posters accepted into the poster session are eligible for the Poster Competition, and two prizes will be awarded. First prize consists of a two year membership for the International Society of Biosafety Research (ISBR), a USD \$500 cash prize, and an award certificate. Second prize consists of a two year membership to ISBR, a USD \$200 cash prize, and an award certificate. The mission of ISBR is to promote the practice and application of science in the fields of agricultural biotechnology and environmental risk analysis. In particular ISBR aims to encourage research which supports the safe and effective use of biotechnology in agriculture and food production and assists the development of the relevant policy and regulation.

The poster program winners' names and abstracts will be posted on the South Asia Biosafety Program website, and highlighted in the monthly South Asia Biosafety Program Newsletter. Posters will be judged September 11-12 based on abstract, scientific content and poster display. Winners will be announced on September 13 before the final plenary session of the conference.

Eligibility

All posters must convey relevance to biosafety research, environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or the regulation of GMOs– plants, animals, arthropods, or micro-organisms. Select abstracts will be given an opportunity to present their research during a lightning round during the conference.

Submission Deadline

Space is limited. Posters will be considered on a first come, first serve basis, based on the relevance to the program. Poster abstracts should be submitted at the time of registration and no later than August 1, 2017. For more details and to submit your poster abstract, please see pages 5-6 or visit <http://sabc.biotech.co.in>

SABC2016 Poster Winner Receives ISBGMO14 Sponsorship

Dr. Lourdes D. Taylo won the 1st place prize at the South Asia Biosafety Conference in 2016 (SABC2016), which included being sponsored to participate in the 14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO14), held in 2017. ISBGMO14 is a biennial, international meeting organized by the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR), which offers a unique opportunity to share information and experiences as well as engage in open and meaningful dialogue on biosafety research, risk analysis, policy and regulatory matters.

Read about her winning poster on page 2 of the October 2016 SABP newsletter: <http://bit.ly/SABPOct2016>



PHILIPPINES

Impressions from the International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms

Dr. Lourdes D. Taylo, University of the Philippines Los Baños

I was very privileged and honored to have participated in the 14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO14) with the theme *Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): Past, Present and Future* held on June 4-8, 2017 in Hotel Fiesta Americana-Minerva, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. It was my first attendance to this prestigious international conference and part of winning first prize in the poster competition during the 4th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference in September 2016 in Hyderabad, India.

Indeed, innovations in agricultural biotechnology have created a significant and dramatic impact to global agricultural productivity, and technology adopters are continuously increasing. Nevertheless, scientists are not complacent about the usefulness of the technology and they are continuously developing new products to meet the challenges and demands of agriculture and changing environments.

Regulatory systems implemented in different countries are still a challenge to technology developers. Science-based risk assessment has been emphasized in many presentations. Public institutions engaged in the development of biotech crops have problems with research funding and local regulation is still a major hurdle prior to commercialization. The big challenge for technology developers is for regulators to develop a harmonized regulation that is acceptable across their respective countries and region. Data transportability should be accepted by local regulators, especially those within the same geography. I was fortunate to have attended a side meeting where public-private technology developers met and discussed their experiences in the development of biotech products. It was a consensus among those present to come up with a publication that will inform regulators of the importance of science-based risk assessment of biotech products, requiring only the 'need-based' and not the 'nice to know' regulatory studies.

Exciting new applications such as genome editing, gene drives, and the use of RNAi technology are major advances in precision plant breeding and new drivers in improving and fast tracking biotech products in the market. Again, the major challenge is regulation. The question is:

“Scientists are not complacent about the usefulness of the technology and they are continuously developing new products to meet the challenges and demands of agriculture and changing environments.”

“Will products developed from these tools be subjected to the same rigor as that of GMOs?” I was able to participate in an exercise where grouped participants analyzed these new tools and each of us discussed our understanding of the tools. One of the important questions raised was, “Should regulation be focused on the product or the process?”

As a whole, the symposium was full of interesting and highly informative presentations from eminent scientists, which conveyed their regulatory experiences in biosafety of GMOs for environmental risk assessments. I was also selected to be one of the oral presenters in the Pecha Kucha Session chaired by Dr. Monica Alonso-Garcia, where students, researchers, and regulators presented a part of their poster paper. I was impressed with the orderly and professional preparations done by the organizers. Dr. Ariel Alvarez-Morales, president of the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR) said during the ISBR Business Meeting that, “though the task is overwhelming, the 101% support of the session organizers, speakers and more importantly, the local organizing activity, makes the task easy and very fulfilling”. Congratulations to Dr.

Alvarez-Morales and looking forward to the next ISBGMO to be held in Barcelona, Spain in 2019.

ISBGMO14 Presentations Available

This year 300 participants attended ISBGMO14 from 58 countries around the world. Presentations from the symposium are now posted as a resource. Please note that you will need to log into members only website to view presentations.

View the presentations on the ISBR website: http://isbr.info/ISBGMO_Presentations

Training Course on GMO Detection Held for Department of Environment Officials

Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning), Department of Environment & Project Director, INBF Project and Dr. M. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, National Project Coordinator, INBF Project, Department of Environment, Dhaka



The Department of Environment (DoE) of Bangladesh has established a genetically modified organism (GMO) detection laboratory under the UNEP/GEF funded Implementation of National Biosafety Framework (INBF) project. This laboratory is equipped with all modern and sophisticated equipment along with necessary chemicals and reagents for DNA isolation, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Real Time PCR experiments. This laboratory was formally inaugurated by Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) in February 2017. Mr. Abdullah Al-Islam Jakob, MP, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, MOEF, Mr. Md. Nurul Karim, Additional Secretary, MOEF, Mr. Md. Raisul Alam Mondal, Director General, DoE and other high officials from the ministry and the DoE attended the inaugural ceremony.

Recently, DoE organized a hands-on training course for the DoE officials and scientists working in the Dhaka Divisional Laboratory. Under the INBF project, Prof. Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker of the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka was appointed as the GMO Detection Consultant to organize the laboratory, where he will serve to conduct trainings on GMO detection and other related subjects. He was assisted by Dr. Tahmina Islam, Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Project Director and Dr. M. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, National Project Coordinator, INBF Project.

A total of eight DoE officials were selected for the first-round of the training program. A laboratory manual was prepared to accompany the training. Initially, participants were trained in methods to prepare the necessary chemicals and buffers. Several experiments like genomic DNA isolation from leaf samples, Gel electrophoresis, DNA quality and quantification by gel electrophoresis, PCR experiments with gene specific primers, and gel documentations were performed. Theoretical presentations were also offered, including from Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka & Bangladesh Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP).

Through this training program, DoE officials have received insights on the subject matter as well as opportunities to learn how to handle the equipment available in a GMO detection laboratory. DoE has been planning to extend this type of training to DoE officials working in the divisional levels and other relevant government departments, such as Custom and Border Control.



Equipment in the GMO Detection Laboratory

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine
- Real time PCR machine
- Gel apparatus
- Gel documentation system
- Laminar hood
- Clean bench
- -80 Degree freezer
- -20 Degree freezer
- Incubator
- RO water plant
- Bench top centrifuge machine
- Mini centrifuges
- Sonicator
- Weighing balance
- PH meter
- Colony counter
- Microscope
- Water bath
- Drying oven
- Vortex machine

EVENT	ORGANIZED BY	DATE	WEBSITE
INDIA			
Series of Consultation Workshops on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity: National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Biodiversity Targets and India's Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), United Nations Development Programme, National Biodiversity Authority and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL)	July- October, 2017 Chandigarh, Guwahati, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Delhi	www.bcil.nic.in
ICAR Sponsored Summer School Recent Advances in Crop Improvement, Production and Post-Harvest Technology in Potato Research	ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	July 18-August 7, 2017 Shimla	http://bit.ly/ICAR_July2017
3 rd International Conference on Plant Genetics and Genomics "AgriGenomics India 2017"	Select Biosciences Ltd.	July 20-21, 2017 Chandigarh	http://bit.ly/SelectBio_July2017
International Symposium on Horticulture: Priorities & Emerging Trends	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, India Society for Promotion of Horticulture, IIHR, Bengaluru, India International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Belgium	September 5-8, 2017 Bangalore	www.iihr.res.in
International Symposium on Sugarcane Research Co 205: 100 Years and Beyond	ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, The South Indian Sugar Mills Association and Society for Sugarcane Research and Development Coimbatore	September 17-20, 2017 Coimbatore	http://bit.ly/ICAR_Sep2017
International Conference and Expo on Biotechnology and Healthcare	Centre for Good Governance and Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU)	October 26-27, 2017, Hyderabad	http://biotechconference.org
INTERNATIONAL			
5 th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference	SABP, ILSI Research Foundation, Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL)	September 11-13, 2017 Bangalore, India	http://sabc.biotech.co.in/



SOUTH ASIA
BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

The South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) is an international developmental program implemented in India and Bangladesh 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.



CONTACT SABP

BANGLADESH

Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque
Department of Botany
University of Dhaka
Dhaka - 1000
Bangladesh
Email: mimdadul07@yahoo.com

INDIA

Dr. Vibha Ahuja
Chief General Manager
Biotech Consortium India Limited
Anuvrat Bhawan, 5th Floor
210, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg
New Delhi 110 002 India
Email: vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

UNITED STATES

Mrs. Libby Williams
Communications Manager
ILSI Research Foundation
1156 Fifteenth Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005-1743 USA
Email: lwilliams@ilsil.org
Twitter: @ILSIRF

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

Registration Form

5th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 11-13, 2017

Taj West End, Bangalore, India



Registrations are limited to 120 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 _____

Select one optional workshop to attend on September 12:

Workshop I: Thinking Ahead: Designing Confined Field Trials to Maximize Data Transportability (limited to 30 attendees)

Workshop II: Best Practices for Public Sector GE Product Development Programs (limited to 25)

Workshop III: Intersection of the Cartagena Protocol and the Indian Biosafety Regulatory System (limited to 40)

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 the 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, 2017. Cancellations received by this date are subject to a 20% processing fee. Registration and ticketed event cancellations received after September 1, 2017, 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, India - 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

Abstract Submission Form

5th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 11-13, 2017

Taj West End, Bangalore, India



Participants are encouraged to participate in this year's program in two ways:

1. **Submit an abstract for an oral presentation** in Plenary Session II: Crop Biotechnology and Biosafety in South Asia or Plenary Session V: New Applications of Biotechnology: Focus on Forestry and Biofuels. Submissions should describe research directly relevant to either of these topics, with preference to research that directly addresses biosafety risk assessment. Areas of particular interest include:

- Innovations for resistance to plant pathogens and insect pests
- Biotechnology as a tool for managing post-harvest losses
- Genetically engineered trees for use in timber or biofuel production, and mechanisms to manage gene flow
- Genetically engineered algae for biofuel production
- Biotechnology and genetic conservation in natural forests

Abstracts submitted for oral presentations will be evaluated by the conference organizers for quality and applicability. Abstracts that are not selected for oral presentations may be considered for posters instead.

2. **Submit an abstract for a poster presentation** during the Poster Program. 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 posters must convey relevance to biosafety research, environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or the regulation of GMOs— plants, animals, arthropods, or micro-organisms.

Guidelines for Submission

The following are suggestions that will contribute to ensuring the readability and quality of abstracts submitted for oral or poster presentations:

- 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.
- 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. Abstracts will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

Deadlines

July 15, 2017 for oral presentations

August 1, 2017 for poster presentations

Please complete the form below and email 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 abstract has been accepted into the program.

I. Lead Presenter

First Name _____

Last/Surname _____

Institution _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

III. Co-Presenters (Include name, organization, e-mail)

III. Abstract Submission for

Oral Presentation Plenary Session II: Crop Biotechnology and Biosafety in South Asia

Oral Presentation Plenary Session V: New Applications of Biotechnology: Focus on Forestry and Biofuels

Poster Presentation

IV. Abstract Title

V. Abstract (Maximum 300 words)

(Note: Presenters must register for the 5th 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.)