

South Asia Biosafety Program

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Open until March 6**

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Key Messages from the 2nd International Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity

Dr. Asadulghani, Head of Biosafety and BSL3 Laboratory, icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka



Sessions at the International Conference on Biosafety & Biosecurity:

1. Principles and Practices of Biosafety & Biosecurity
2. Medical Waste Management in Bangladesh
3. Biosafety & Biosecurity in Agriculture, Veterinary, and Animal Sciences
4. Biosafety & Biosecurity in Biotechnology
5. Food Biosafety & Biosecurity
6. Safe Techniques and Safe Technologies in Biotechnology
7. 2015-2016 Progress Report

Keynote Speakers: Ms. Maureen Ellis, Executive Director, International Federation of Biosafety Associations; Dr. Natasha K. Griffith, Director, High Containment Facilities, University of California, Los Angeles, USA; and Mr. David Meale, Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Organized by the Office of icddr,b, Disease Control Division of the Directorate General of Health Services, in association with different public universities and medical colleges, the 2nd International Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity was organized on December 7-8, 2016 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. The program was supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP), USA. More than 490 participants, including students and professionals from medical, biological, agricultural, and veterinary sciences, attended this two-day conference.

Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammed Nasim, was present as the Chief Guest. Honorable Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, Mr. Anisul Huq, graced the inaugural session as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. John David Clemens, Executive Director of icddr,b, graced the occasion as a Guest of Honor. Professor Dr. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, chaired the Inaugural Session. Dr. Asadulghani, Head of Biosafety and BSL3 Laboratory, icddr,b, stressed the importance and need for ongoing biosafety and biosecurity activities in Bangladesh.

The first session on principles and practices included a total of ten oral presentations focusing on different areas of biosafety, biosecurity, bioterrorism and biodefense. A plenary lecture on the global context of biosafety and biosecurity: where we are in 2016, was presented by Ms. Maureen Ellis, Executive Director, International Federation of Biosafety Associations.

The second session was dedicated to medical waste management. This session focused on the current status of risks originated from medical waste, as well as medical waste management guidelines and ways to strengthen the biohazardous waste management system in Bangladesh. The resolution from this session was that we have the guidelines for medical waste management, however, waste generators are not aware of them. Therefore, it is necessary to develop policies and procedures, as well as making waste generators aware of them, so they can be implemented. It is also important to make all the necessary waste packaging materials in the country available at a reasonable cost, so that a sustainable program can be managed.

Biosafety and biosecurity in agriculture, veterinary, animal sciences were the focus of the third session. This session included four lectures

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covering basic and applied sciences, with a major focus on the bioterrorism agent *Bacillus anthracis*.

The fourth session, on biosafety and biosecurity, included updates on biosafety regulation in Bangladesh. Food biosafety and biosecurity are major areas of concern for our country.

Experts presented on different topics covering national and international issues related to biosafety during the fifth session. Biotechnology is based on safe techniques and safe sciences for sustainability.

The presentations during the sixth session focused on an advanced containment strategy, which has evolved from using specialized rooms to using localized isolation technology. Operators are never in direct contact with the pathogen while providing access and controlled transfer through dynamic pass through.

The final session of the conference presented a two-year progress report on the status of biosafety and biosecurity from 2015-2016 in Bangladesh. Experiences and expectations from the divisional coordinators of all eight divisions were shared. The presentations highlighted the sensitization and training program that has been organized, the assessment of biomedical laboratories that were conducted, and the identification of laboratories dealing with biological materials in each division.

The scientific committee of this conference was chaired by Professor

Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka and Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program along with Professor Dr. A. H. M. Nurun Nabi, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka. The organizing committee of the conference was chaired by Professor Dr. Sharif Akhtaruzzaman, Chairman, Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Dhaka. Dr. Asadulghani was the Conference Secretary.

150+ Participants Attendee Pre-Conference Workshop

A pre-conference workshop was also organized at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b, to train students and professionals in Bangladesh in the field of biosafety and biosecurity. Professor Dr. Sanya Tahmina Jhora, Director Disease Control, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, chaired the Inaugural Session. Dr. Niyaz Ahmed, Senior Director, Laboratory Sciences and Services Division, icddr,b, addressed the audience as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, addressed the audience as the Chief Guest. More than 150 participants from different districts participated in this pre-conference workshop.



Call for ISBGMO14 Abstracts

The 14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO14) will be held on June 4-8, 2017 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Attendees will learn from the past, discuss the present and look ahead to future opportunities and challenges associated with GM technology.

ISBGMO14 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. Colleagues are encouraged to present a poster or an oral presentation. The deadline for abstract submission is March 6, 2017.

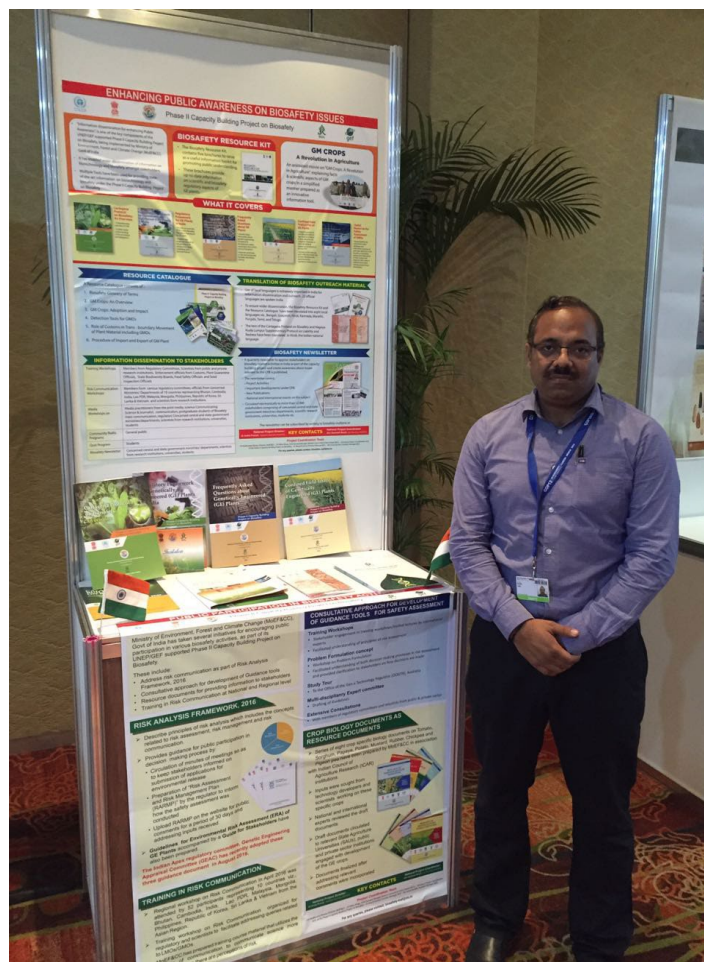
To submit your abstract, visit: <http://isbr.info/ISBGMO14/Abstracts>

Capacity Building Experiences in India Shared at COPMOP8

Guidance on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, developed as part of UNEP/GEF Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety, was recently adopted by the Indian Regulatory Authorities. Implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Phase II Project also developed a series of crop specific biology documents on eight crops, including rubber, tomato, sorghum, pigeon pea, chickpea, mustard, papaya, and potato. Manuals and tools for trainers have been developed for strengthening the monitoring of confined field trials of genetically engineered plants.

All of these project outputs were showcased by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in association with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), at the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COPMOP8) recently held in Cancun, Mexico. A side event on Strengthening Biosafety Management System in India was organized on December 16, 2016. Various publications, knowledge products, and outreach material that have been prepared as part of the four thrust areas of the Phase II Project on Biosafety were highlighted during this event.

Posters depicting key features of various documents were also displayed at the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Fair organized concurrently to COPMOP8.



Want to learn more about the Indian Delegation at COPMOP8?

Visit <http://bit.ly/IndiaCOPMOP8> to read a summary on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's website.

Bangladesh Guidelines for the ERA of GE Plants Now Available

On November 22, 2016, the Bangladesh Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Engineered Plants in the national Gazette. This document provides a detailed description of how ERA will be conducted under the requirements of Bangladesh's Biosafety regulatory system under the Bangladesh Biosafety Rules. It has been developed for the purpose of providing assistance for planning and conducting environmental risk assessment for an open release of a GE plant in Bangladesh. **This publication represents a significant step in ensuring that researchers and developers of genetically engineered plants are able to identify and collect data that will support regulatory review of these plants when they are intended to be released in agriculture.**

To view the Guidelines, visit: http://bit.ly/ERAGuidelines_Bangladesh2016



2 New Crops Added to the Crop Composition Database

Explore data on sorghum and potato recently added to the ILSI Crop Composition Database, which contains searchable information on the natural composition variability of conventionally grown crops.

Visit www.cropcomposition.org

EVENT	ORGANIZED BY	DATE	WEBSITE
INDIA			
Seed Industry Programme	Cornell University and Sathguru	January 18-21, 2017 Hyderabad	www.sathguru.com/seed
National Symposium on Climate Smart Technologies for Enhancing Vegetable Oil Production	Indian Society of Oilseeds Research, ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences	January 19-21, 2017 Hyderabad	http://bit.ly/2gEZR6o
International Symposium on Eco-Efficiency in Agriculture and Allied Research	Crop and Weed Science Society (CWSS) and Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV)	January 20-23, 2017 Nadia, West Bengal	www.cwssbckv.org and www.cropandweed.com
National Conference on Recent Trends and Opportunities in Life Sciences	Savitribai Phule Pune University	January 24-25, 2017 Pune	www.unipune.ac.in
XIV National Seed Seminar on Food Security Through Augmented Seed Supply Under Climate Uncertainties	Indian Society of Seed Technology	January 28-30, 2017 New Delhi	http://bit.ly/2jlnltV
7 th Indian Seed Congress	National Seeds Association of India	February 12-14, 2017 Kolkata	http://nsai.co.in/isc2017
International Conference on Technological Advancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (TASARD – India, 2017)	Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS), African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and AIMT, Amity University, Noida	February 20-22, 2017 Noida	www.amity.edu/aimt/tasard
Workshop on Technology and Innovation Management - Key to Effective Commercialization	Biotech Consortium India Limited and Department of Biotechnology	February 21, 2017 New Delhi	www.bcil.nic.in
XIII Agricultural Science Congress, 2017	National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India	February 21-24, 2017 Bangalore	www.agricongress2017.com
INTERNATIONAL			
14 th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO14)	International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR)	June 4-8, 2017 Guadalajara, Mexico	http://isbr.info/ISBGMO14
BIO International Convention	Biotechnology Innovation Organization	June 19-22, 2017 San Diego, CA, USA	www.convention.bio.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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