

South Asia Biosafety Program

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BANGLADESH

Workshop Aims to Strengthen the Knowledge of Biosafety and Biosecurity in Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Hossain Uddin Shekhar, General Secretary, Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BSBMB), Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka



The Biosafety Office of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, and the Bangladesh Biosafety and Biosecurity Association (BBBA) in association with the Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BSBMB) organized a workshop on biosafety in biomedical research and diagnostics on May 21-22, 2016 at the Center for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS), University of Dhaka. The main objective of this workshop was to promote and strengthen the knowledge of biosafety and biosecurity in Bangladesh.

Prof. Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka and Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP), along with Dr. Kevin Russell, CDC Country Director, Bangladesh and Scientific Special Advisor, ICDDR, B, graced the inaugural ceremony as the Special Guests.

Approximately 80 participants attended the workshop, which were mostly young teachers and researchers of the biological sciences from the University of Dhaka; Jagannath University, Dhaka; Janhangir Nagar University, Savar; Maulana Bhashani University of Science and Technology; and the Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).

The inaugural ceremony began with the welcoming address given by Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, Vice President, Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. After the welcoming address, Dr. Asadulghani, Head, Biosafety & BSL3 Laboratory, ICDDR, B, gave an



overview on the workshop programs and activities. In their speeches, the invited guests highlighted the importance of this workshop and how it will be useful for the researchers working in different areas of biotechnology. They also thanked the organizers for taking the initiative to promote biosafety and biosecurity in the country and especially Dr. Russell, for supporting this kind of activity in Bangladesh. The inaugural ceremony ended with a vote of thanks offered by Prof. Dr. Hossain Uddin Shekhar, General Secretary, BSBMB.

The scientific sessions were conducted by Dr. Asadulghani; Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka; and Dr. Monira Parvin, Associate Professor, Department of Virology, Dhaka Medical College. The theoretical presentations covered different aspects including the general safety considerations for biosafety and biosecurity as well as biomedical waste management. There were also hands-on-training sessions. The participants learned about the safety issues, equipment and functionality, as well as good laboratory practices in the BSL2 Laboratory. At the end of the workshop, certificates were awarded by the Dean of Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka.



National Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology Prepares an Action Plan for Improving Crops

Professor Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Dhaka



On May 14-15, 2016, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) organized the "National Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology: Research Achievement, Present Status and Future Plan". The main objective of the workshop was to assess the current status of research and achievements related to agricultural biotechnology being carried out by National Agricultural Research System (NARS) Institutes, public universities and private sector biotech enterprises. The purpose of this event was to prepare an action plan on the application of biotechnology for the improvement of different economically important crops, through the consolidated efforts of scientists working at various NARS Institutes, academic institutions and private sector organizations.

Approximately 60 participants and expert scientists attended the two-day workshop held at the BARC Conference Room. The scientists in attendance represented different NARS Institutes, including: the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), the Bangladesh Sugarcrop Research Institute (BSRI), the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), the Bangladesh Tea Research Institute (BTRI), the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB), and the Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (CDB).

Among the academic institutions, the researchers in attendance represented: the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka; Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka; Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University; Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding; Department

of Biotechnology of Bangladesh, Agricultural University; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University; and Sylhet Agricultural University. Each presented their research status being carried out at their respective organizations. The representatives of three private sector biotech companies, namely, Supreme Seed Ltd., ACI Limited, Lal Teer Seed Ltd and one non-governmental organization, BRAC, also presented their research and development status on different crops. A total of 23 presentations were given by the researchers. Prof. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Prof. Dr. Md. S.R. Bhuiyan, Pro-VC, SAU, Prof. Dr. M.S. Khaleque Mian, BSMRAU, Prof. Dr. She-E-Alam, Former VC, SAU, Prof. Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker, DU, Prof. Dr. K.M. Nasiruddin, VC, BSTU and Dr. Kazi M. Komoruddin, ED, KGF, attended as expert scientists.

The workshop began with a welcome address given by Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC. Following the welcome address, Prof. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Adviser, Advanced Seed Research and Biotech Center, ACI Ltd., presented the keynote paper highlighting the past and present research activities on agricultural biotechnology. He also gave an outline on the future directions needed for the improvement of important crops in the country.

At the end of the scientific presentations, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC, chaired the concluding session. A summary report based on the suggestions and recommendations given during the scientific sessions was presented. Participants and invited expert scientists of the workshop thanked the BARC authority for taking the initiative to assess the current research status on agricultural biotechnology. By doing this, it is possible to formulate plans of action for the improvement of various agriculturally important crops to meet the future demand of food security in the country.

Participants also suggested forming target-oriented research groups comprised of researchers working in the NARS Institutes, academia, private sectors and non-governmental organizations, so that targets may be achieved within the shortest possible time with the participation of relevant stakeholders. They also insisted to hold such consultation meetings, workshops, and seminars more frequently so that all concerned groups may stay informed on each other's work status and development.

The Executive Chairman of BARC thanked all participants for sparing their valuable time during the two-day workshop. He hoped that the recommendations generated during the workshop will be very useful for future action on agricultural biotechnology. He also sought continuous support from the participating scientists in undertaking research programs which will contribute to meet the future demands of the country.

Register Today for the 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>

Stakeholders Engaged in Biosafety through Phase II Capacity Building Project

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, Biotech Consortium India Limited, New Delhi



In May 2016, three training workshops on strengthening enforcement capacities for transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), were organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in association with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL). These training workshops were organized under the Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety, for representatives of State Biodiversity Boards, Food Safety Officials and Seed Inspectors.

The objective of these workshops was to inform stakeholders about GMOs, focusing on their development, global status, biosafety regulations and India's obligations as Party to the international treaties such as Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). The principles on the safety assessment of GMOs, detection methods and useful resource databases such as the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) were also shared with participants. Attendees worked on case studies to reinforce key concepts and enable practical usage of these online information databases.

Additionally, a practical demonstration on the techniques for detection of GMOs was presented to participants during the laboratory visit at Punjab Biotechnology Incubator (PBTI), Mohali and at DNA fingerprinting and Transgenic Crop Management laboratory (DFTCML), Hyderabad.

The faculty for these training workshops included regulators and eminent scientists, including:

- Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Adviser, MoEF&CC
- Dr. B. Sesikaran, Chairman, Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)
- Dr. K. Veluthambi, Co-Chairman, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)
- Dr. K.C. Bansal, Officer on Special Duty, Division of Education, Indian Council of Agriculture Research
- Dr. P. Ananda Kumar, Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Rice Research
- Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief, General Manager, BCIL

More than 100 participants attended the three workshops, including officials from the National Biodiversity Authority, the State Biodiversity Boards, the Food Safety and Standard Authority (FSSAI), the State Food Testing Laboratories, the Seed Inspectors from the State Agriculture Departments and the Seed Testing officials from State Department Laboratories.



EVENT	ORGANIZED BY	DATE	WEBSITE
INDIA			
Series of Awareness Workshops on Guidelines for Access to Biological Resources under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Department of Biotechnology, Biotech Consortium India Limited and National Biodiversity Authority	June 22, 2016, Guwahati June 24, 2016, Kolkata June 29, 2016, Pune July 14, 2016, Bangalore July 15, 2016, Hyderabad	www.bcil.nic.in/
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
1 st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC 2016)	Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) and Bioversity International	November 6-9, 2016 New Delhi	www.iac2016.in/
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			
4 th International Conference on Biotechnology Engineering (ICBioE 2016)	Kulliyah of Engineering International Islamic University Malaysia	July 25-27, 2016 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.iiu.edu.my/icbioe/2016/
7 th International Crop Science Congress	Institute of Crop Science Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences	August 14-19, 2016 Beijing, China	www.7icsc.com.cn/home.html
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/
8 th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference	Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B) and University of Dhaka	December 3-5, 2016 Dhaka, Bangladesh	http://www.bap tcb.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.

**CONTACT SABP****BANGLADESH**

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UNITED STATES

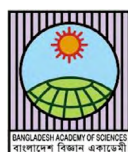
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Twitter: @CERA_ILSI and @ILSIRF

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, environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or the regulation of GMOs – plants, animals, arthropods, or micro-organisms. Examples of topics include:

- Laboratory or field research that describes **novel** findings that can be used to inform ERA of GMOs.
- Research that advances understanding of how GMOs may potentially affect agro-ecosystems e.g., new approaches for early tier testing of non-target organisms.
- Studies that will lead to improved stewardship of GMOs
- Studies on management of secondary pests and/or volunteer weeds in GM plant agriculture.
- Studies related to the use of GMOs in public health e.g., vector control of pathogens.
- Studies related to the use of GMOs for environmental remediation.
- New approaches to ensuring reproductive isolation of experimental GMOs in field situations.
- Results from studies that integrate GMOs into sustainable, agricultural production systems.
- Substantive programs used to improve biosafety capacity and knowledge generation where these are supported by data demonstrating impact (descriptions of single workshops or seminars are not eligible).
- Substantial discussion of biosafety considerations or needs associated with ongoing research or product development

Posters describing basic research e.g., construct development, gene discovery, transformation methods etc. will not be considered.

Authors of select abstracts may be given an opportunity to present their research during the Lighting Round session on September 19. This session is comprised of short, oral presentations of 5-7 minute duration.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM FOR POSTER PROGRAM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND E-MAIL IT TO lwilliams@ilsi.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.