

# South Asia Biosafety Program

**NEWSLETTER** for private circulation only – not for sale



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## Register Today

**4<sup>th</sup> 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 feature sessions on:

- Regulation of Biotechnology in South Asia
- Research and Development in South Asia
- Research Efforts to Address Climate Change
- New Technologies in GE Development
- Meeting Regulatory Challenges and Approaches to Regulatory Support
- Dossier Preparation: Planning and Generation of Regulatory Data



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

Follow along to @CERA\_ILSI on Twitter for updates and to see live tweets during the conference! **#SABC2016**



## New IARC Report Urges Action Against Widespread Mycotoxin Contamination in Developing Countries

In a new report published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a Working Group of experts reviewed the health effects of aflatoxins and fumonisins. The panel concluded that these mycotoxins are not only a cause of acute poisoning and cancer but are also a likely contributor to the high levels of stunting in children in affected populations. The report, "Mycotoxin Control in Low- and Middle-Income Countries", is available in English, French, and Spanish.

To view the report, visit [www.iarc.fr/en/publications/pdfs-online/wrk/wrk9/IARC\\_publicationWGR9\\_full.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/pdfs-online/wrk/wrk9/IARC_publicationWGR9_full.pdf)

To view the official press release, visit [www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2016/pdfs/pr242\\_E.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2016/pdfs/pr242_E.pdf)

To view the article in *Science Magazine*, visit <http://bit.ly/1QnpTUa>

## Three Workshops in Delhi Build Capacity on Environmental Risk Assessment

Dr. Michael Wach, Senior Scientific Program Manager, ILSI Research Foundation, United States



Three workshops, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, and coordinated by BCIL, were given at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi, on February 22-25, 2016. The purpose of the workshops was to build capacity in the assessment of environmental risks posed by commercial releases of genetically engineered (GE) crops and to facilitate the deployment of new GE crops developed by public sector scientists in India.

### Workshop on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants

This two-day workshop provided an introduction to the concepts of environmental risk assessment of GE crops as well as the use of problem formulation to provide a transparent, organized framework for risk assessments. The workshop also provided focused training on the special topics of impact assessment on non-target organisms and evaluation of potential weediness and invasiveness of GE crops. There were approximately 45 participants from public sector research programs in India, representing a wide variety of crops and research interests. The workshop was conducted by the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), from the ILSI Research Foundation, and training was

provided by Dr. Monica Garcia-Alonso, Estel Consult Ltd., and Dr. Michael Wach, ILSI Research Foundation.

### Workshop on Non-Target Organisms in the Context of Environmental Risk Assessment of GE Crops

This one-day workshop provided intensive training on the assessment of possible adverse impacts to non-target organisms from crops that have been genetically engineered to be insect resistant. Emphasizing the problem formulation approach, this workshop discussed how impacts are assessed in the lab as well as in semi-field and field situations, what types of data are generated by these assays, and how that data is used in the evaluation of risks to non-target organisms. Dr. Garcia-Alonso provided the instruction, and the workshop was attended by fifteen public sector entomologists.

### Workshop on Dossier Preparation for Genetically Engineered Plants

With the recent submission to the India government of a GE mustard variety for commercial planting approval, many public sector scientists working to develop new GE crop varieties are concerned with the preparation of their own dossiers for regulatory review. This one-day workshop, taught by Dr. Garcia-Alonso, provided a review of environmental risk assessment and demonstrated how an understanding of the assessment process can help scientists collect and present the data most likely to effectively inform regulatory decision making. Specifically, participants learned the difference between data collected for publication in scientific journals and data relevant in the risk assessment context. Approximately 35 public sector scientists attended the workshop.





## ICAR Working Session Focuses on the Importance of Biosafety

Mr. H.H. Kumaraswamy, Scientist and Institutional Biosafety Officer, ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad



An interactive meeting on biosafety was organized on February 18, 2016 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad, for the benefit of scientists, students and research staff of the institute as part of the ICAR Biosafety Program.

Dr. Michael Wach, ILSI Research Foundation; Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Biotech Consortium India Ltd.; and Mr. H.H. Kumaraswamy, Institutional Biosafety Officer (IBO), ICAR, participated as resource persons.

Dr. K.S. Varaprasad, Director, and Dr. IYLN Murthy, Principal Scientist & Head (Crop Production), welcomed the participants. Dr. Wach gave an overview of the importance of biosafety in research laboratories and research fields. He highlighted the need for documentation of biosafety practices and the value of sharing knowledge with stakeholders and the public to build confidence in scientists and the work carried out in research institutes.

### What is the ICAR Biosafety Program?

Currently, over 30 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes have active research programs using genetically engineered (GE) plants, covering over 80 species. Because ICAR is committed to compliance with biosafety regulations concerned with GE organisms, it has partnered with the South Asia Biosafety Program to initiate a series of biosafety capacity building activities across the institutions for research programs engaged in the development of GE plants.

The first major activity has been a pilot program in ten ICAR institutions actively working to develop new GE plants. Two individuals were selected from each of the ICAR institutions to become Institutional Biosafety Officers (IBOs). After their initial training, the IBOs will be working together to create all the materials necessary for a functioning institutional biosafety program, including standard operating procedures, staff training materials, and processes for facility biosafety audits.

A brainstorming session with biosafety experts led to formulation of specific action items. Mr. Velu Mani, a Ph.D. student, asked whether biosafety issues are limited to transgenics alone. Resource persons shared that biosafety is a comprehensive issue comprising of many aspects including the safety of laboratory workers, safe working environments, and biosafety related regulatory compliances. Dr. Padmaiah, Head of Social Sciences, ICAR-IIOR, raised an apt concern that there is a need for sensitizing all stakeholders on the safety of transgenic material as well as biosafety followed during research and development in genetic engineering. Dr. V. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist of Biotechnology, ICAR-IIOR, joined the concern and further stressed the need for creating awareness among all the stakeholders, including farmers, that are the final determinants of the real benefits and safety of transgenic crop plants. The session concluded a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Kumar.

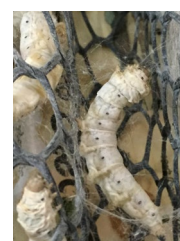
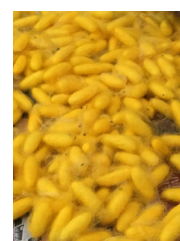


## Trials of Transgenic Silkworms Initiated in India

The loss of life of silkworms due to diseases prompted academic research groups to develop transgenic silkworms resistant to BmNPV virus. The Government of India, through the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation, Department of Biotechnology, has permitted the Andhra Pradesh State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (APSSRDI) to conduct multilocal field trials of transgenic silkworms in India.

To view the official press release by PTI, visit:

<http://bit.ly/1QOW9N7>





## Highlights from the Conference on Biotechnology for Sustainable Development

Dr. A.H.M. Nurun Nabi, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka



The 2<sup>nd</sup> International South Asia Biotechnology Conference was held on February 5-6, 2016 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka (BMB-DU), organized this event in collaboration with the South Asian University, New Delhi, India. It was a thrilling moment for the organizers and participants to take a step forward together towards the global need for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 declared by the United Nations. This international event aimed to shed light on the biotechnological research within the SAARC region and beyond by emphasizing health, agriculture, environment and industry under the umbrella of the most appropriate theme, "Biotechnology for Sustainable Development".

Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan, Hon'ble Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. To learn more about the SDGs, visit: <http://bit.ly/1pp4f9v>**

Professor Dr. Rajiv K Saxena, Vice President, South Asian University, and Professor Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka, and SABP Country Coordinator of Bangladesh were the Special Guests. Professor Dr. Haseena Khan and Professor Dr. Md. Sayedul Islam, BMB-DU, acted as the Chairperson and Convener of the conference. Professor Dr. A.H.M. Nurun Nabi, BMB-DU, served as the Organizing Secretary.

This two-day conference focused on various important disciplines of biotechnology and its applications. More than three hundred participants representing different public universities, specialized universities, medical colleges, and research institutes from Bangladesh, India and Nepal attended and presented their research activities on human health, agriculture, environment and industrial application of biotechnology. A total of 4 plenary sessions, 24 speaker sessions, 40 oral sessions and 65 posters were presented by national and international experts.



# Inter-Ministerial Meeting Requests Feedback on Guidelines for Environmental Risk Assessment

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

The Department of Environment (DOE), with technical assistance from the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) and several stakeholder consultations, developed the Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Modified Plants. Prior to a gazette notification, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) held an inter-ministerial meeting for receiving comments from concerned ministries on February 4, 2016. Mr. Nurul Karim, Hon'ble Additional Secretary, Environment, presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Ministries of Fisheries and Livestock, Land, Industries, Commerce, Health and Family Welfare, as well as the Department of Forests and the National Board of Revenues were in attendance.

At the outset, Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning), DOE, highlighted the developmental process as well as the importance of the guidelines. He also mentioned that a presentation has been prepared for better understanding. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, who is one of the members of the Drafting Committee, presented the main points and functionalities of the guidelines. After thorough discussion by attendees, it was decided that the guidelines would be sent to all the concerned ministries with a request to provide comments back to MOEF within one month. If MOEF does not receive comments within one month, then it will be understood that there was no comment on this document from that particular ministry.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| EVENT   | ORGANIZED BY   | DATE  | WEBSITE  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>INDIA</b>  |  |   |  |
| National Symposium on Biotechnology in Crop Improvement: Prospects & Challenges               | Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi  | April 1, 2016<br>New Delhi                  | <a href="http://www.zakirhusaindelhicollege.in">www.zakirhusaindelhicollege.in</a>                               |
| 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<br>New Delhi           | <a href="http://www.iipr.res.in/pdf/events_201115.pdf">www.iipr.res.in/pdf/events_201115.pdf</a>                 |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL</b>  |  |   |  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Plant Genomics Congress: Asia   | Global Engage  | April 11-12, 2016<br>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | <a href="http://www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomicsasia.html">www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomicsasia.html</a> |
| BIO International Convention  | Biotechnology Innovation Organization  | June 6-9, 2016<br>San Francisco, CA, USA    | <a href="http://convention.bio.org/">http://convention.bio.org/</a>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference  | SABP, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) | September 19-21, 2016<br>Hyderabad, India   | <a href="http://sabc.biotech.co.in/">http://sabc.biotech.co.in/</a>  |



**SOUTH ASIA**  
BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

**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](mailto:vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in)



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



ILSI  
Research  
Foundation



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

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference

September 19-21, 2016

Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India



**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM FOR POSTER PROGRAM

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND E-MAIL IT TO [llwilliams@ilsi.org](mailto:llwilliams@ilsi.org) AND COPIED TO [vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

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