VOL 13 NO. 5 **MAY 2016**

South Asia Biosafety Program

NEWSLETTER for private circulation only – not for sale



Finalizing the Bangladesh Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines

Launch of the ICAR Biosafety Portal and e-Learning Course in India

PAGE 3

Calendar of Events

Program and Registration Information for the South **Asia Biosafety Conference**

PAGE 7

INDIA

PAGE 2

South Asia Biosafety Conference Poster Session Prizes Announced



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 on September 19-21, 2016. Presenting a poster is a noteworthy way to share expertise or accomplishment. Poster presenters will have a dedicated time to present and discuss their work with the diverse group of conference attendees.

Eligibility

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. Select abstracts will be given an opportunity to present their research during a lighting round during the conference.

Prizes

PAGE 3

The 1st Place Winner will be sponsored to participate in the 14th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO), to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico in 2017. ISBGMO is a biennial, international meeting organized by the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR), which offers a unique opportunity to share information, experiences and engage in open and meaningful dialogue on biosafety research, risk analysis, policy and regulatory matters. This 1st place prize includes:

- Economy class airfare to Guadalajara
- Standard hotel accommodations during the ISBGMO
- Per diem allowances in an amount to be determined by SABC
- Payment of the winner's ISBGMO registration fee
- A two-year membership to ISBR

The 2nd Place Winner will receive a two-year membership to the International Society of Biosafety Research and a USD \$100 cash prize.

The winners' names and abstracts will be posted on the South Asia Biosafety Program website and highlighted in the South Asia Biosafety Program Newsletter.

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 September 1, 2016.

For more details and to submit your poster abstract, please see pages 7-10 or visit http://sabc.biotech.co.in

Participation Requested: Understanding Risk Decision Making in Plant Breeding

New plant breeding techniques are being developed and employed in ways that may make it difficult if not impossible to determine the process used to create a new crop variety. There is considerable uncertainty among the plant breeding community over whether or how to employ these new breeding techniques. The University of Saskatchewan is requesting your assistance with a multi-year research project on global risk decision making as it relates to new plant breeding techniques. This project is designed to run for the next three years. If you agree to participate in this project, they will send one survey every three months, with each survey taking no more than 10 - 15 minutes.

To sign up for the survey and join the project of scientists, regulators and business professionals from around the world, please visit http://research-groups.usask.ca/nbt-regulation/

Finalizing the Bangladesh Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines of Biohazardous Material

Dr. Asadulghani, Head, Biosafety & BSL3 Laboratory, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), Dhaka



On April 2, 2016, a workshop was held to finalize the Bangladesh Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines for the Handling and Disposal of Biohazardous Material at the Centre for Advance Research in Science (CARS), University of Dhaka. Prior to this workshop, one steering committee meeting and two consultative meetings were held to develop drafts of the guidelines.

The April event was jointly organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, USA; the Bangladesh Biosafety and Biosecurity Association (BBBA); the Biosafety Office of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B); and the Centre for Advance Research in Science (CARS). The program was

supported by the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP), US Department of State.

The main objective of this program was to present the guidelines to the key persons of the National Committee on Biosafety (NCB). Mr. Haider Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Director (Planning), Department of Environment and Member Secretary, Biosafety Core Committee, was present during the meeting. Participants of the workshop included: Dr.

Md. Salimullah, Director General, National Institute of Biotechnology; Professor Sharif Akhteruzzaman, Chairman, Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, University of Dhaka; Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain, Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka; Professor Dr. Rakha Hari Sarker, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka; Brigadier General Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Chief Health Officer, Dhaka South City Corporation; and distinguished professors from different universities

and resource persons in the field of biosafety and biosecurity from all eight divisions of Bangladesh. Professor Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Dhaka and Bangladesh Country Coordinator, South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) chaired the day long workshop.



"Overall, these guidelines

were developed to ease

the burden for regulatory

compliance and to nationally

streamline biosafety

requirements and practices."

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE GUIDELINES

SECTION 1.0: RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTICS WITH BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Chapter 1.1: Introduction
- Chapter 1.2: Purview Extent and Exemptions
- Chapter 1.3: Summary of Procedures
- Chapter 1.4: Experiments Covered by the Guidelines
- Chapter 1.5: Import, Export and Transport of **Biohazardous Materials**

SECTION 2.0: CONSTRUCTION OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

- Chapter 2.1: General Requirement
- Chapter 2.2: Requirements for Microbiological and **Biomedical Laboratory**
- Chapter 2.3: Commissioning and Certification

SECTION 3.0: WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTION 4.0: APPENDIX

Dr. Asadulghani, Head of Biosafety and the BSL3 Laboratory of ICDDR,B and President of the BBBA, gave a presentation highlighting the sections and chapters of the guidelines. The harmonized guidelines will apply not only to facilities handling human pathogens but also to facilities dealing with animal pathogens, plants, and insects as well.

The first section of the guidelines explained principles and practices on the research and diagnostics with biohazardous materials. This section further included the standard behavior in doing research and diagnostics. The second section is the technical documentation outlining the minimum requirements for the design, construction, commissioning and operation of laboratory facilities. This section details

> where to conduct research and diagnosis safely. The third section is for biomedical waste management. A fourth section is included with all the necessary forms, including additional information for animal, plant, and insect biosafety and reference guidelines. Overall, these guidelines were developed to ease the burden for regulatory compliance and to nationally streamline biosafety requirements and practices. More importantly, this will be the single reference point for

facilities handling humans, animals and plants pathogens.

After the presentation, participants were divided into different groups based on their interest and expertise. The relevant recommendations received from the group exercises will be incorporated in the document for circulation and finally will be submitted to the NCB for their endorsement.





Launch of the ICAR Biosafety Portal and e-Learning Course

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



A pilot programme on biosafety awareness and compliance readiness has been initiated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to strengthen compliance with the biosafety regulatory framework in its research institutions engaged in agricultural biotechnology. The programme is being implemented in collaboration with the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP), Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) and the ILSI Research Foundation, USA. The programme is based on a "train the trainers" approach involving 10 research institutions. Two officers from each of the institutions have been nominated as Institutional Biosafety Officers (IBOs). These officers are being extensively trained through a series of workshops, training programmes and e-Learning courses. In association with national and international experts, the IBOs will coordinate biosafety training within each institution. Through this programme, three workshops and a webinar have been held on biosafety aspects related to lab and greenhouse activities for the IBOs. Additional activities are also underway in each institution through the IBOs, including invited lectures and visits to the facilities for guidance by international experts.

As part of the project, an ICAR Biosafety Portal was launched by Dr. T. Mohapatra, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, at an event entitled "Launch of ICAR Biosafety Portal and Third Training Workshop

for IBOs" held on April 13, 2016 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi. The Biosafety Portal has been developed in collaboration with the Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (DKMA) to serve as a resource to strengthen compliance with the Government of India's biosafety regulatory framework in order to effectively facilitate research and development of agricultural biotechnology within ICAR. In addition to information about the project activities, the ICAR Biosafety Portal has a resource depository/library containing documents on laws, regulations and biosafety guidance, crop biology documents, international resources and application forms which is open to all interested users. Passwords are not needed to browse, read online or download the documents. The resource collection is searchable by standard index terms, such as keywords, date of publication and country of publication. The portal also has links to biosafety related websites, along with a brief description of the information that is available on each site. To access the Biosafety Portal visit http://biosafety.icar.gov.in/

Under the programme, a series of e-Learning courses are also being developed on a variety of topics related to biosafety to support the training of IBOs, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) members and any other personnel involved in biosafety compliance related Continued on page 4





















activities. These courses are based on guidelines notified by Indian regulatory authorities. Dr. Mohapatra launched the e-Learning course on "Regulatory Compliance by the Institutional Biosafety Committees" which is about the guidelines and handbook for IBSCs, with an objective to strengthen the functioning of IBSCs in ICAR research institutions. To access the e-Learning course visit http://ibsc.biotech.co.in/

At the launching event, Dr. Mohapatra shared that he appreciated this initiative aimed at biosafety capacity building initiative in ICAR institution. He indicated that ICAR is committed to strengthening biosafety compliance in its research institutions and such capacity building programmes facilitate greater awareness about genetically modified crops. Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR and Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR also supported the project activities and requested all IBOs to make use of this opportunity to enhance their capacities. Dr. P.K. Chakrabarty, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection and Biosafety), ICAR, Dr. Morven McLean, Executive Director, ILSI Research Foundation and Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, BCIL informed the audience about the key features of the biosafety programme and the website.



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur
- Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla
- Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research (DRMR), Bharatpur
- 4. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), **Bangalore**
- Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad
- Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR), Hyderabad
- 7. Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur
- Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad
- Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi
- 10. National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi



ICAR Biosafety Portal

Strengthening compliance and moving agricultural biotechnology forward in India

http://biosafety.icar.gov.in/

ABOUT THE PORTAL

The ICAR Biosafety Portal serves as a resource to strengthen compliance with the regulatory framework and also to effectively facilitate research and development of agricultural biotechnology activities in ICAR through the regulatory process for the benefit of farmers and society.



FEATURING

Searchable Resource Library

Open-Access Biosafety Documents

ICAR Biosafety News & Activities

Useful Internet Resources

e-Learning Course

Regulatory Compliance by the Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBSC)

http://ibsc.biotech.co.in/

ABOUT THE COURSE

This e-Learning course has been prepared to inform about the Guidelines and Handbook for IBSCs, with an objective to strengthen the functioning of IBSCs. It will be useful for members of IBSCs and regulatory committees, scientists from public and private sector engaged in rDNA research/activities, students and other stakeholders.

Guidelines and Handb Institutional Biosafety

FEATURING



24/7 Access allows you to take the course anytime, anywhere

Self Assessments provide instant feedback on your understanding

Visuals to help reinforce key concepts

EVENT	ORGANIZED BY	DATE	WEBSITE		
INDIA					
Series of Training Workshops on Strengthening Capacities for Transboundary Movement of Living Modified Organisms	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, under the UNEP-GEF supported Phase-II Biosafety Project	May 20-21, 2016 Chandigarh May 27-28, 2016 Hyderabad	By invitation only.		
National Conference on Sustainable and Self Sufficiency in Production of Pulses through an Integrated Approach	University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore and Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD), IIPR, Kanpur	May 21-22, 2016 Bangalore	http://www.iipr.res.in/pdf/ brouchure_apr1616.pdf		
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/		
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.baptcb.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.



UNITED STATES





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 Marq New Delhi 110 002 India Email: vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

Mrs. Libby Williams **Communications Manager ILSI Research Foundation** 1156 Fifteenth Street N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20005-1743 USA

Email: lwilliams@ilsi.org 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, 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 lighting round during the conference.

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.

١.	Lead Presenter		
	First Name:		
	Last Name:		
	Institution and Address:		
	E-mail:		
	Telephone Number:		
			man If an abatus at it was airead from an
	-	gister for the 4 th Annual South Asia Biosafety Confere Obstract will NOT be included in the review process).	nce. II an abstract is received from ar
II .	-	•	nce. II an abstract is received from ar
ıI.	author who is not registered, the a	bstract will NOT be included in the review process).	nce. II an abstract is received from ar
II.	author who is not registered, the a	bstract will NOT be included in the review process). ding their name, organization, address and e-mail. Se	

Accomodations 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@nkmsgrand.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.