



Biosafety Short Course

July 16 – 18, 2018

Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria

Course rationale

Nigeria's biosafety law, the National Biosafety Management Agency Act 2015, mandates the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) to, among other objectives, provide a holistic approach to the regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) including providing measures for stakeholder engagement through effective public participation including awareness creation and education on the use and application of modern biotechnology and its safe management. This short course seeks to empower important stakeholders with current information on the safe management of biotechnology for socio-economic development.

Course objectives

1. To provide participants with basic, science-based information on biosafety and biotechnology to help demystify the science
2. To increase awareness among key actors on their role, and the significance of having functional regulatory systems for biotechnology
3. To help address misinformation, myths and misperceptions associated with biotechnology
4. To provide a platform for networking among key actors to foster inter-agency collaborations
5. To promote biosafety awareness amongst key stakeholder and actors to facilitate their participation in biosafety decision making



Programme

Sunday: July 15, 2018

Arrival of participants at the Aaron Hotel, Enugu
Meeting of resource persons and course instructors

Monday: July 16, 2018

08:00 Departure from the hotel to the Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu

OPENING CEREMONY
Chair: Prof. Chidi Uhuegbu

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 – 09:40 Official welcome and opening remarks

GO University
NBMA
Michigan State University
Program for Biosafety Systems
ECOWAS
NEPAD Agency ABNE
HE Governor of Enugu State

Rev. Fr. Prof. C. Anieke
Dr. Rufus Ebegba
Prof. Karim Maredia
Dr. Matthew Dore
Dr. Djeri-Alhassani
Dr. Jeremy Ouedraogo
Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi

09:40 – 10:00 Cocoa/tea/coffee break & Group Photo

All



SETTING THE SCENE

Moderator: Dr. Marian Unachukwu

10:00 – 10:30	An introduction to traditional plant breeding techniques	<i>Prof. Happiness Oselebe, Ebonyi State University</i>
10:30 – 11:00	An introduction to modern biotechnology: the science of developing GM crops	<i>Prof. Sylvia Uzochukwu, Fed. Uni Ekiti</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Global overview of, and trends in GM crop adoption	<i>Dr. Matthew Dore, PBS</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Status of biotechnology and biosafety in Europe	<i>Dr. Marc Heijde, IPBO</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	<i>All</i>

MYTHS AND MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT GMOs

HOW SAFETY AND NON-SAFETY CONCERNS ABOUT GMOs ARE ADDRESSED

Moderator: Ruth Mbabazi, MSU

13:00 – 13:30	Status of modern biotechnology in Nigeria	<i>Dr. Rose Gidado</i>
13:30 – 14:00	An introduction to biosafety	<i>Dr. Christie Onyia, GOU</i>
14:00 – 14:30	General principles of risk analysis	<i>Prof. Geoffrey Tusime, Makerere University</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Environmental safety concerns and how they are addressed	<i>Dr. Olalekan Akinbo</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Cocoa break	
15:20 – 16:00	Food safety concerns and how they are addressed	<i>Mrs. Modupe Adeyemo, ABNE</i>
16:00 – 16:40	Socio-economic concerns and how they are addressed	<i>Dr. Hashini Galhena, MSU</i>
16:40	Wrap up and departure to hotel	<i>All</i>



Tuesday: July 17, 2018

07:45 Departure from the hotel to GO University

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR REGULATING BIOTECHNOLOGY

Moderator: Dr. Jeremy Ouedraogo

08:30 – 09:15	International instruments/treaties that impact on biosafety	<i>Mr. Sunday Akile, ABNE</i>
09:15 – 09:45	ECOWAS regional harmonization efforts	<i>Dr. Djeri-Alhassani, ECOWAS</i>
09:45 – 10:00	Cocoa break	<i>All</i>
10:00 – 10:45	The biosafety regulatory system in Nigeria	<i>Mrs. Nkiru, NBMA</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Role of IBCs in a biosafety regulatory system	<i>Ms. Hajara Yusuf</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Questions/Comments	<i>All</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:30	How applications for permit to conduct biotech related activities are handled	<i>Ms. Chinyere Nzeduru, NBMA</i>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BIOSAFETY PROCESSES

Moderator: Dr. Marc Heijde

13:30 – 14:00	Public acceptance of modern biotechnology	<i>Prof. Joseph Guenther, USA</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Public participation in risk assessment and decision making	<i>Mr. Samuel Timpo, ABNE</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Health break	<i>All</i>
14:45 – 15:45	Panel Discussion Obtaining greater stakeholder buy-in for biosafety processes	<i>Mr. Sunday Akile, ABNE</i> <i>Mr. Samuel Timpo</i> <i>Mrs. Nkiru, NBMA</i>



*Prof. Gozie Ogbodo
Dean, Faculty of Law,
GO-Uni*

15:45 – 16:00	Questions/discussions/closing remarks	<i>All</i>
16:00	Departure back to Aaron hotel	<i>All</i>

Wednesday: July 18, 2018

07:45 Departure from the Aaron hotel to the University

BIOSAFETY RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

Moderators: Mrs. Gbemi Popoola

08:30 – 09:15	Court cases, legal challenges and lessons learned	<i>Mrs Nkiru, NBMA / Mr. Sunday Akile, ABNE</i>
09:15 – 10:15	Panel discussion Emerging issues in African countries that have commercialized GE crops and lessons learnt	<i>Dr Jeremy Ouedraogo Dr. Olalekan Akinbo Dr. Rufus Ebegba Dr. Karim Maredia</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Cocoa/tea/coffee break</i>	
10:30 – 11:15	Panel discussion Potential role of biotechnology in national development	<i>Dr. Rufus Ebegba Dr. Matthew Dore Prof. Benjamine Ubi, President, Biotech Soc. Of Nigeria Prof. Carl Okezie</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Global biosafety services and resources	<i>Prof. Karim Maredia, MSU</i>
11:45 – 12:15	ABNE services and resources	<i>Mr. Jean Kebere, ABNE</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Course evaluation	<i>ABNE/GOU</i>



12:30 – 12:45	Closing ceremony	<i>GOU & Partners</i>
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>All</i>
13.45 – 17.00	Visits to places of interest	<i>All</i>

Thursday: July 19, 2018

Departure of participants

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