

ABNE in Africa

Building a Functional Biosafety System in Tanzania

Tanzania is a signatory to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and has put in place a National Biosafety Framework for the safe use, adoption and utilization of modern biotechnology. In line with the Cartagena Protocol, Tanzania has developed; an Environmental Policy (1997), a regulatory framework as contained in the Environmental Management Act (2004) together with Regulations 2009 and Guidelines (including manuals). Tanzania has in place institutional arrangements that include a National Biosafety Committee, National Competent Authorities and Institutional Biosafety Committees.

In 2002, the National Biotech Advisory Committee (NBAC) was established to advise the Government and other stakeholders in all aspects of biotechnology. The National Biotechnology Policy (2010) was adopted with the aim to promote the safe development and application of biotechnology to realize the MKUKUTA/MKUZA & National Development Vision 2025.

ABNE efforts in building a functional biosafety system in Tanzania

Since the inception of its capacity building program, ABNE has been engaged with Tanzanian regulators, through sponsoring regulators to participate in various meetings and training workshops in Africa and abroad. Furthermore on request from Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), ABNE conducted a training workshop for lawyers and scientists on liability and Redress in Tanzania for twenty participants. The table below summarizes the capacity building activities carried out for Tanzanian regulators.

Activity	Place and date	Number of Tanzanians trained and / or involved
International meeting in Ouagadougou	Ouagadougou, April 2010	2
Consultative Meeting On The Implication Of Liability And Redress Clauses In The Environmental Management (Biosafety) Regulations (2009) On Transfer And Application Of Modern Biotechnology	Dar es Salaam, September 2010	20
Tanzania Biosafety Training Workshop	Dar es Salaam, April 2011	62
Environmental Biosafety Short course	Michigan State Univ., August 2010/ 2011	3
Total		87

Impact of ABNE activities in Tanzania

As a result of these efforts, particularly from the Tanzania Biosafety Training workshop and the Biosafety Short Courses held in Michigan State University in 2011, willingness and commitment were shown towards reviewing the provisions of the Environmental Management (Biosafety) Regulations (2009) and thus far the National Biosafety Committee has approved one Confined Field Trial for Bt Cotton in Tanzania.

Based on requests from Tanzanian Regulators and other stakeholders, ABNE shall assist in the process.



Environmental Biosafety short course, Michigan State University, August, 2011

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Diran Makinde, Director

06 BP 9884 Ouagadougou 06

Tel: +226 50 33 15 01

Mobile +226 76690210

Email: diran.makinde@nepadbiosafety.net