

# ABNE – A Continent-wide Biosafety Service Network

## For ABNE services, please contact:

ABNE Director: Prof. Diran Makinde ([diran.makinde@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:diran.makinde@nepadbiosafety.net))

## Programme Officers:

Dr. Moussa Savadogo: Environmental Safety

([moussa.savadogo@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:moussa.savadogo@nepadbiosafety.net))

Dr. Allan Liavoga: Food Safety ([allan.liavoga@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:allan.liavoga@nepadbiosafety.net))

Mr. Samuel Timpo: Socioeconomic Aspects ([sam.timpo@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:sam.timpo@nepadbiosafety.net))

Ms. Betty Kiplagat: Legal/Policy Aspects ([b.kiplagat@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:b.kiplagat@nepadbiosafety.net))

Mr. Kassalo Bamazi: Website and Documentation Manager

([bamazi@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:bamazi@nepadbiosafety.net))

## Administrative and Financial Management:

Ms. Oumy Barry: Programme Assistant ([oumy@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:oumy@nepadbiosafety.net))

Mr. Vincent Tiendrebeogo: Admin and Finance Manager

([vincent.tiendrebeogo@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:vincent.tiendrebeogo@nepadbiosafety.net))

ABNE services in different regions of Africa are coordinated through the African Biosciences Initiative (ABI) Networks under the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology ([www.nepadst.org](http://www.nepadst.org)).

## Advisor, NEPAD Office of Science and Technology

Prof. Aggrey Ambali: ([aggrey@nepadst.org](mailto:aggrey@nepadst.org))

## ABI Network Directors:

Ms. Chimwemwe Chamdimba: [chimwemwe@nepadst.org](mailto:chimwemwe@nepadst.org) - BecANet

Prof. Mohamed Elarbi Aouani: [me\\_aouani07@hotmail.fr](mailto:me_aouani07@hotmail.fr) - NABNet

Dr. Marcel Nwalozie: [marcel.nwalozie@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:marcel.nwalozie@nepadbiosafety.net) - WABNet

Prof. Luke Mumba: [LMumba@sanbio.co.za](mailto:LMumba@sanbio.co.za) - SANBio

## For more information on ABNE, please contact us at:

NEPAD/African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)

c/o University of Ouagadougou,

06-BP 9884, Ouagadougou 06, BURKINA FASO

Email: [abnestaff@nepadbiosafety.net](mailto:abnestaff@nepadbiosafety.net)

[www.nepadbiosafety.net](http://www.nepadbiosafety.net)



# African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)

*A science-based biosafety resource network for African regulators*

[www.nepadbiosafety.net](http://www.nepadbiosafety.net)



African Union–New Partnerships for Africa's Development  
Office of Science and Technology (AU/NEPAD-OST)

[www.nepadst.org](http://www.nepadst.org)

## ABNE – Building Functional Biosafety Systems in Africa

The African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) is an Africa-based, Africa-led initiative established by the AU/NEPAD's Office of Science and Technology. ABNE was conceptualized under NEPAD's Consolidated Plan of Action and fulfills the recommendation of the High-Level African Panel on Modern Biotechnology - *Freedom to Innovate*, by Juma and Serageldin, 2007 ([http://www.nepadst.org/doclibrary/pdfs/biotech\\_africa\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nepadst.org/doclibrary/pdfs/biotech_africa_2007.pdf)).

ABNE is a continent-wide service network that has buy-in from the African governments and was officially approved in 2008 by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) to promote advancement of science and technology for agricultural development in Africa.

The overall goal of the ABNE service network is to build functional biosafety systems in Africa. ABNE biosafety services aim to empower African regulators with science-based information, targeting the members of National Biosafety Committees (NBCs), Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs), and Plant Quarantine Officers (PQs) so that they can make informed decisions on biotechnology products.

### ABNE Services: Empowering African Regulators



ABNE services are offered by a team of biosafety specialists based at its node in Burkina Faso. The ABNE team offers these services in close collaboration with regulators at national and regional levels, and NEPAD's African Biosciences Initiative (ABI) networks.

Based on the consultations held with regulators in 17 countries in different sub-regions of Africa, and recognizing that countries are at various levels of biosafety and biotechnology capacity, ABNE offers services that are tailored to the needs of regulators. ABNE services are targeted to the members NBCs, IBCs and PQs.

These services include information, training, education, and technical consultations related to the development of guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and implementing regulations used for reviewing applications, monitoring, and compliance of laboratory and greenhouse trials, confined field trials, general releases, and imports of biotechnology food products.



In addition, the networking activities of ABNE facilitate policy dialogue through participation of African regulators and decision makers at national, regional and international meetings.

ABNE collaborates with other service providers in Africa and globally to draw upon existing expertise, resources and infrastructure. ABNE partners with Michigan State University to harness expertise and experiences of the global community for the benefit of Africa.

### ABNE services encompass the following programs and activities:

- A. **Information resources** – Web portal ([www.nepadbiosafety.net](http://www.nepadbiosafety.net)), Documentation Unit, Policy briefs, Newsletters and other publications, Email listserv, Hotline, CDs, DVDs, Roster of experts
- B. **Training and education** – Workshops, Short courses, Online courses, Internships, Regulatory study tours
- C. **Technical support and consultations** – One-on-one and group consultations and mentoring services
- D. **Networking** – Participation in Regional and International meetings, Forums and Conferences