

African Biosafety Regulators Establish the *African Union Biosafety Regulators Forum*



African regulators at the AUC headquarters Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 25-28 June, 2019

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African Biosafety Regulators Improve their Knowledge on Genome Editing Regulations and Establish the African Union Biosafety Regulators Forum

As part of COP-MOP intersessional activities, AUDA-NEPAD ABNE and the AU Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology organised a consultation and training on Genome Editing and a Post-UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 Review Meeting, from 25 – 28 June, 2019 in Addis Ababa. Following the recommendation made by the AU member states in September 2018, that the AU biosafety regulators forum be established, the said platform was constituted on 28 June, 2019. The gathering brought together 60 participants (regulators and scientists) from 31 AU

member States.

In his opening remarks, Nicholas Omondi Ouma, on behalf of Dr Mahama Ouedraogo, Director of the African Union Commission Department of Human Resource, science and Technology welcomed the participants and said that “the technical and policy issues pertaining to the application of genome edition is a critical conversation to have. It is therefore in this regard that the AU Commission is supporting this important initiative by our implementing partners at AUDA through the ABNE Program in the preparation of this training”.



A view of participants during the meeting.

This meeting had two main components; the first one concerned the capacity building aspect and the second one, on the last day, was dedicated to the COP-MOP follow-up and the establishment of the African Biosafety Regulatory Forum.

The last COP-MOP discussions in Egypt focused on emerging technologies like gene drive, genome editing and synthetic biology and the African Group of Negotiators expressed the need for capacity strengthening in these areas. AUDA-NEPAD and AUC initiated this meeting to respond to this request and strengthen the capacity of African regulators on genome editing first, while planning for training on other emerging technologies before the next COP-MOP meeting in late 2020.

Participants were provided with technical information on the applications of genome editing, particularly for plant varieties or animal breeds that may be on the horizon. They were also walked through policies currently being applied toward genome edited products in other geographies and the rationale for such policies. As a result of group work and discussions, African

biosafety regulators made strong statements and recommendations to AUC and AUDA-NEPAD regarding the Regulatory aspects of genome editing. They particularly called for a continental position on genome editing that will support decisions of regulators at local conditions.

On the last day, participants took stock of the recently concluded UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 in Egypt with regards to lessons learnt, and reviewed the implementation of upcoming post-COP-MOP intersessional activities that would require immediate action.

Implementing the recommendation of the member States in September that AUC and AUDA-NEPAD support the establishment of the AU- Biosafety Regulators Forum, the AU-BRF was officially constituted. The African Union Biosafety Regulators Forum envisions to be a model of excellence in biosafety regulation for the safe use of modern biotechnology and

its related emerging technologies in Africa. It aims to serve as a catalyst for coherent biosafety regulatory oversight in the continent. An interim board was established with the mandate of proposing upcoming activities of this continental forum and setting up the formal Steering Committee of the African Union Biosafety Regulatory Forum. The interim board is constituted of seven members and is chaired by Dr Rufus Ebegba, Director General of the National Biosafety Management of Nigeria. The six other members are representatives of the Southern Africa Region, the Eastern Region, the Northern Region, the Western Region, and also a Legal Advisor and a Scientific Advisor.

Participants share their views

Dr Rufus Ebegba, Director General of the National Biosafety Management Agency in Nigeria, newly elected as Chairman of the interim board of the AU Biosafety Regulators Forum.



“This meeting is a milestone in the life of Africa. It was an opportunity for African biosafety regulators to dialogue on the way forward particularly when it concerns new technologies that are emerging in the area of biosafety. The meeting have given us in-depth information and knowledge on genome editing and the opportunity to think beyond the normal regulatory

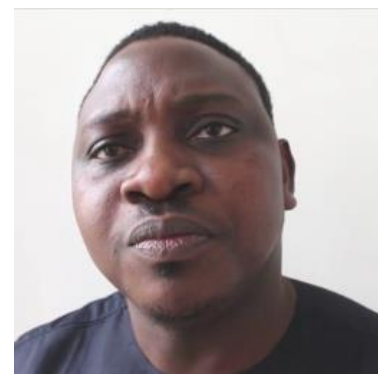
system. Now we understand how to regulate the sector so that we will be able to regulate the genome editing technologies that fall within the Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), and those that would not fall within the LMOs, we would not need to bother ourselves. The meeting has also enabled us to have the opportunity to create a structure whereby biosafety regulators can always meet to assist the African Union with functional policy issues and driving issues of biosafety in the African continent. With the establishment of this biosafety regulators forum, more confidence will be given to modern biotechnology and its products and it will give the African States, that have not been able to establish their structures, the opportunity for us to discuss with them at the national level to encourage them to establish their regulatory institutions and also to strengthen their human capacity especially those who don't have enough personnel to run their biosafety offices and agencies.”



Dr. Roda Sansão Nuvunga Luís, Biosafety Authority (GIIBS), Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher and Technical Vocational Education of Mozambique and Member of the interim board of the AU Biosafety Regulators Forum.

“During the COP-MOP discussions in Sharm El Sheik, we felt that we really needed to go deep with our knowledge on genome editing in order to have a position in Africa. Maybe only one or two countries in the continent are having products from this technology, but at least, we need to prepare ourselves to do some legislation because I am sure we will be receiving products derived from this technology. It was a very productive meeting. I was honoured to be nominated as member of the interim board in charge of fully establishing the African biosafety platform.”

Mr Anthe Komi, Focal Point of Cartagena Protocol, Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources, Togo, and Legal Advisor of the interim board of the AU Biosafety Regulators Forum



"This training has allowed us to ensure that countries have a clear understanding of a number of topics, including international developments in certain technologies and how Africa might position itself in relation to these technologies. Personally, I had no idea about genome editing. This means that at the level of our States nothing can be done in this area. We do not know how to use these technologies to improve people's living conditions. Through this type of training, AUC and NEPAD are opening the eyes of

African States and drawing their attention to their responsibilities and the important decisions they might have to make. But if we do not know about these developments, nothing can be done at the national level. After this meeting, we will report to our respective authorities and in particular the ministers in charge of biosafety issues to help them identify all the contours of the topic before making any decision in this area.”

Inauguration and First Meeting of WA-IVM Technical Working Groups



Group picture of the TWG members with officials from Cote d'Ivoire government, AUDA-NEPAD, and WAHO.

African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment in Cote d'Ivoire, organized the inaugural meeting of WA-IVM Technical Working Groups (TWGs) from 24 – 26 April, 2019, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Dr. ABLE, Inspector General of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, representing the Minister, co-chaired the opening ceremony with Mr LAVRY, Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

In his keynote address, Dr ABLE welcomed participants and thanked organizers for choosing Cote d'Ivoire for such an event. He also stated that “nobody has the right to stay insensitive to the malaria tragedy imposed on us by mosquitoes. While acknowledging the significant progress made during the last decade and our common move against malaria, we must today admit that unless alternative strategies are developed and implemented, the global objective to control malaria from 2016 – 2030 and reduce cases and mortality due to malaria by 40% by 2020 will not be achieved.”

The programme covered the official swearing-in of the members of the Technical Working Groups, selection of Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the TWGs and the review of detailed terms of reference of the TWGs. As part of the programme, each TWGs work plan and capacity strengthening needs were also reviewed.

The nominees from the Member States are expert TWGs and some of them were not familiar with gene drive for the control of malaria so the general objective was to improve knowledge and enhance capacities of participants in the management and regulation of gene drive technology for malaria vector control.

Specifically, the programme provided participants with information on the burden of malaria in Africa, gene drive technology for vector control, increased awareness among key actors on their role, and the significance of having functional regulatory systems for gene drive technology and establishing a platform for regional discourse.

Various presentations were made, which improved TWG members' understanding of the malaria burden of Africa and approaches and tools for malaria. Participants also gained knowledge on basic, science-based information

on gene drive technology for malaria control, essence of regulation and the governance structure and the role of WA-IVM.

The establishment and inauguration of the WA-IVM platform comprising ECOWAS Heads of National Biosafety Agencies, National Ethics Committees, National Medicines Regulatory Agencies was facilitated by AUDA-NEPAD in August 2018 in collaboration with the West African Health Organization (WAHO).

Depending on their expertise, TWG members are in four different working groups: TWG on Health Regulation, TWG on Biosafety Regulation, TWG on Disease Management and Vector Control, and TWG on Ethics.

It is expected that TWG members will provide expert opinion on matters referred by the Steering Committee before any recommendation is made to the relevant ECOWAS Ministers and to the ECOWAS Heads of States who will decide the way forward for the regional economic community.

Technical Workshop to Develop Biosafety Regulatory Tools and Advance the Process of Setting up a Functional Biosafety System in Senegal

NEPAD Agency ABNE, in partnership with the national biosafety agency “*Autorite Nationale de Biosecurite (ANB)*” of Senegal, successfully carried out a technical workshop aimed to assist the country develop a number of basic biosafety regulatory tools that are required for building a functional biosafety system that will enable the country to safely harness the benefits from modern biotechnology.

The meeting took place from 6 - 9 June, 2019 at Saly Portudal, Senegal, and brought together regulators from ANB under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

(*Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable*), and resource persons from other institutions.

The three day intensive program lead to the development of application forms for confined field trials of biotech crops, application form for importation / exportation of food and feed derived from biotechnology products; draft decrees laying down procedures for risk assessment, and draft regulation for the establishment of the scientific advisory committee responsible for dossier review and recommendations for decision making.



A view of participants during the working session.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ousseynou Kasse, Executive Director of ANB, expressed his high appreciation of the outcomes of the meeting as this was a critical need for Senegal, and thanked NEPAD Agency ABNE for its support for this opportunity and also during the past years. . “We now have part of the key tools we needed to be operational. These are important technical and regulatory tools that will allow us to fulfill our responsibilities”, he said. He added that his institution and the whole country rely on a continued support from NEPAD to develop the remaining tools that are needed for the country to have a fully functional system.

Dr Moussa Savadogo, ABNE Principal Programme Officer, on behalf of ABNE Director, commended ANB Executive Director and his team for their leadership on the development of the legal instruments and for the positive move that the country is making towards the establishment of a functional biosafety regulatory system. “This meeting was a key step in the strengthening of the biosafety regulatory system in Senegal. Application forms are now ready for CFT dossier review and Senegal definitely has the human resources and the political will to move the process forward”, he added.

Dr Moussa encouraged regulators to speed up the process for the passage of the revised biosafety law.

Senegal has been in the process of adopting functional biosafety regulatory systems since 2003, starting with the ratification of the Cartagena protocol on biosafety. It passed a biosafety law in July 2009 and established a National Biosafety Authority (NBA) in the same year.

Over the years the law proved in practice prohibitive so a process for its revision to make it functional was started in 2015. In 2016, political leaders, at the highest level, officially expressed the need for the country to move forward and have in place the necessary legal framework that will allow the country to harness the benefits from modern biotechnologies for its development.

NEPAD Agency ABNE, within the framework of its AU mandate, will continue to provide the necessary technical support for the implementation of a functional biosafety system in Senegal.

Capacity building for Members of the National Biosafety Committee and select News Media groups in Mozambique



Group picture of GIBs members with the Minister, Prof. Doutor. Eng. Jorge Nhambiu at the center (5th from the right) and the GIBs Coordinator Dr. Roda Nuvungu Luis (7th from the right).

African Union Development Agency NEPAD ABNE in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher and Technical Vocational Education of Mozambique organized an Induction Seminar for Members of the National Biosafety Committee (GIIBS) in Mozambique, from 8 – 10 May, 2019 in Maputo.

The objective of the seminar was to build the capacity of the GIIBS members in biosafety and especially their role in the national biosafety system. Under the current legal framework, the GIIBS membership are selected on their competency to represent different sectors in the country. It was important to build their capacity in the different aspects of Biosafety due to differences of background and highlight their responsibilities.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Doutor Engo. Jorge Nhambiu, Minister of Science and Technology, Higher and Technical Vocational Education of Mozambique reminded that "Mozambique has started field testing of drought tolerant maize since 2017 in order to safely use the potential of biotechnology tools to effectively cope with climate change and environmental issues". He added that their supports in the sensitization of the Mozambican people on the decisions taken by the National Biosafety Authority is contextualized, science based and understood building on the pillar of awareness creation".

During the meeting, presentations were made by AUDA-NEPAD ABNE experts, GIIBs coordinator, and local scientists and government officials on biotechnology and biosafety key topics including Genetic Engineering Science, Global Biotechnology Adoption Trends, International and regional legal policies and instruments relevant to the regulation of modern biotechnology, Biotech Product and Field Inspection Procedures, Country engagement in International Negotiation, Roles and responsibility of GIIBs by Decree 71/2014, and Proposed GIIBS Activities Plan for the Year 2019. Questions from participants during the different sessions helped them fully appreciate the subject matter and especially their role in biosafety implementation process.

AUDA-NEPAD ABNE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Higher and Technical Vocational Education of Mozambique in July 2017 to provide the country with the necessary technical support to enhance the national biosafety regulatory system, especially through capacity building of the regulators. The National Biosafety Committee (GIIBS) is Mozambique's advisory body that provides technical and scientific advice to the National Biosafety Authority (NBA).



Dr Olalekan Akinbo from AUDA-NEPAD with the group of journalists during the sensitization meeting on the 10th of May, 2019.

Members of the committee were formally inaugurated in December 2018 in accordance with the National Biosafety Regulation on the Management of Genetically Modified Organisms.

This meeting created an entry point for the media to be engaged and trained on biosafety subject, a field different from the core of journalism. This is an effort to bring media to the center of balanced information sharing to the Mozambican and encourage them to use the competent authority as the primary source of credible information on biosafety issue within the country. This is also envisioned

to improve interaction between the competent authority and media in public awareness and to foster mutual relationship and trust. This group of journalists will serve as the core group with science-based knowledge and orientation for information sharing for the competent authority and GIIBs. The competent authority envisions to set up a national biosafety communication network in the future to capitalize on their efforts and continuously share knowledge and experience to enhance their skills in the production of evidence-based information in the biosafety area.

Stakeholder Seminar on the biosafety draft law and to develop priority regulatory tools in Niger

Based on their request, AUDA NEPAD assisted the Niger Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development and the Centre for Strategic Studies and Security (CNESS) to organise a Stakeholder Seminar on biotechnology, biosafety and biosecurity, on 22 June 2019, in Niamey.

This one-day meeting aimed to inform and sensitize stakeholders from various institutions about the requirements for a functional biosafety system and what

needs to be achieved in the country to enable functionality of the national regulatory system.

It also sought to provide technical backstopping to the biosafety regulators from the Ministry of Environment to develop top priority regulatory tools including implementing instruments and application forms for import/export of food and feed derived from modern biotechnology.



A view of part of participants during the sensitization meeting

The morning session which constituted the sharing information and sensitization component of the seminar gathered around 50 regulators and scientists from government institutions and their partner organisations.

Dr Moussa Savadogo, AUDA-NEPAD Principal Programme

Officer and Dr Zaki Gado, Focal Point of the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety at the Ministry of Environment shared up-to-date information with the participants, with regard to the functionality of a biosafety system, the status of the national biosafety draft bill and on the West Africa regional harmonised biosafety framework.

The afternoon session gathered a focused group of national experts assigned to draft priority regulatory tools for the

country. With the assistance of the AUDA-NEPAD biosafety expert, the group was able to develop three draft legal Instruments; one for the implementation of the scientific biosafety advisory committee, the second to guide the biosafety risk assessment process, and the third one to lay down the requirements for import / export of food and feed derived from modern biotechnology.

At the end of the sensitization session, participants commended the organisers for the quality of the information shared and acknowledged that this meeting was an eye-opener to all of them.

Participants share their views.

Prof Sidikou Ramatou Djermakoye Seyni, Professor-researcher at Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey, Director General of the Center for Scientific Research of Niger.

"This meeting is really welcome as I have been waiting for such an opportunity for so long. So far there has been a lot of misinformation about biotechnology and biosafety in Niger and such a meeting helps to restore the reality of things. Niger has wasted a lot of time due to misinformation about biotechnology but better late than never. It is now time for Nigeriens to get into the innovation and technology train.

Niger as a country faces various needs. First generation of biotechnology could initially be used to clean up all crops that are sensitive to pathogens, particularly to viruses. We all know that plant viral diseases can only be treated by selecting cleaned stems followed by bio-propagation. It is urgent to solve these crop protection problems so that we can be able to grow crops that we need for our people and our development. "



Ranaou Maazou, Specialized Agronomist in Plant Protection, Focal Point of the Sahelian Committee on Pesticides, implementing body for pesticide regulation in the 13 CILSS member countries.

"This training workshop has strengthened our capabilities in biotechnology and biosafety and will enable us to develop a strategy on biosecurity, taking into account food safety. We have a biosafety bill that is in the pipeline for adoption by the Parliament and we are hopeful that this can be achieved very soon and thus strengthen our biosafety legislation. Experts from the research institutions as well as from the legislative and political arenas are involved , and once the law is adopted, they are ready to work together to complete the regulatory system through the development of implementing guidelines and other instruments, taking into



account, in particular, the institutional requirements as well and the human resources needed to fully implement the national system. "

GAGARA H. Mariama, Central Livestock Laboratory, responsible for the food quality control unit.

This meeting was really necessary as it dealt with issues we did not know. Particularly with regard to biotechnology and biosafety; our misunderstanding have now been overcome as we have had the opportunity to share knowledge with international experts on these issues. We were aware of the subject matter and wanted to have much information but we did not have the time to do the necessary research to access the needed information. Now, we have got so much information delivered in a very effective manner by the AUDA-NEPAD expert. I particularly appreciated the information on the regulatory framework for biosafety in Niger and in particular the new law that is about to be adopted and that could allow to

move positively in many aspects. Exchanges on GMOs have also been very rewarding. It is really a subject of actuality, and very often we have been facing questions which we always tend to run away from because we don't have much information and cannot provide the right answers. The issue is however real and we need to talk openly about it"



Biosafety Capacity Strengthening in Cotton Growing Counties in Kenya



Group picture of workshop participants in Kisumu.

NEPAD Agency ABNE, in partnership with the National Biosafety Authority in Kenya successfully carried out a capacity building workshop for the Rift Valley and Central Kenya Cotton Growing Counties at Nakuru, and for the Lake Basin Cotton Growing Counties at Kisumu in Kenya, from 12-18, 2019.

In total, 80 participants attended the two workshops, 35 at Nakuru and 45 at Kisumu. Participants included County Government Policy makers, County Agricultural extension staff, Representatives from cotton farmers, Rivatex East African Ltd.

Other participants included staff from Ministry of Trade, Kenya Plant health inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), representative Farmers/ Farmer Cooperatives, the CEO NEPAD KENYA/APRM Secretariat, CEO of Kenya Cotton Taskforce, the National Commission of Science and Technology (NACOSTI), International Finance Corporation (IFC) secondment to Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. Representatives from African

Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum (ABSF), Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS), as well as three Scientists from Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and two members of County parliament also took part in the workshops.

During the training participants were taken through the Biosafety of insect resistant Bt cotton and they benefited from experiences of lessons learnt in African countries commercializing Bt cotton especially Eswatini, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Sudan.

Kenya is still facing GMO importation ban in place since November 2012. The National Biosafety Authority has partially approved the environment release of Bt cotton after successful confined fields trials but the technology cannot be disseminated until a commercial release is approved. Farmers and stakeholders are hopeful to commercialize Insect resistant Bt cotton in the near future and benefit from the opportunities of the technology.

Experts of Technical Working Groups Meet in Dakar to Review Draft Guidelines of the West Africa Integrated Vector Management Platform

African Union Development Agency NEPAD, in partnership with the West Africa Health Organization facilitated a consultative meeting of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to review draft guidelines of the West Africa Integrated Vector Management Platform (WA-IVM).

The meeting brought together 50 experts who are members of the TWGs of the WA-IVM platform.

The experts are nominated by their respective countries and are drawn from national biosafety committees or agencies of ECOWAS countries, national ethics committees and drug regulatory agencies.

The WA-IVM platform was established and inaugurated in August 2018 in Accra, under the joint

facilitation of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO) of ECOWAS.

The platform is organized around a steering committee, and four technical working groups inaugurated last April in Abidjan. The main role of the technical working groups is to prepare technical documents in different fields relevant for the safe testing and subsequent deployment of new and novel vector control tools.

In his opening speech, Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Senegal Minister in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development welcomed participants and said that “The topic that brings us together concerns mosquitoes in the context of the fight for the elimination of malaria, which disease has caused the



From left to right are Dr Linda Arogundade representing WAHO, Dr Jeremy Ouedraogo representing AUDA-NEPAD, Mr. Abdou Karim Sall, Minister in charge of the Environment and Mr Ousseynou Kasse from the national Biosafety Authority of Senegal.

African continent and its populations too much suffering. I would like to remind you, here, how much the weight of this disease and its heavy consequences negatively impact the sustainable development efforts that are made daily by our governments and our populations south of the Sahara.”

Dr Mahama Ouedraogo, Director of African Union Human Resources Science and Technology, seized the opportunity of being in Dakar for another meeting to pay a visit to participants. He said that he was pleased he could meet the different TWGs. He highlighted the importance of the IVM platform not



Photo of participants during the opening ceremony.

only for the West Africa region but for the whole continent. He further stated that “vector-borne diseases like malaria are a burden that is impeding the development of African countries and African Union fully supports the IVM initiative that will help control these diseases in an effective and holistic way.”

Dr Sheila Tamara Shawa, Senior Programme Officer from the Africa Center for Disease Control of the Africa Union Commission (AUC) affirmed that “this is a very good meeting because we are setting the guidelines and

we are looking at how ECOWAS member States can have in place regional guidelines to ensure there is safety in implementing technologies like the gene drive.”

During the meeting, each TWG was able to amend and reach consensus on draft guidelines in their respective thematic areas. The draft guidelines were prepared by consultants and the IVM steering committee and secretariat. At the end of the group work, chairpersons of TWGs shared their views on the results achieved.

TWG leaders share their views on the results achieved

Dr Oumar Traore, from Agence Nationale de Biosecurité of Burkina Faso and Director of Laboratoire National de Biosecurité; Chairperson of the TWG on biosafety.

“We are working here as TWGs so that things move the best way for the implementation of the IVM platform. In my TWG we worked on two guidelines: the guidelines for Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) and the guidelines on compliance, monitoring and inspections of transactions involving gene drive arthropods... These guidelines will help to have a common working ground for all the ECOWAS member States even though there might be some specificities from one country to another. Scientists, IBCs and national regulators all have the same objective: develop products that are safe for people. However, each stakeholder must understand his responsibility and regulators especially must fully play their role including taking sometimes sanction to make sure scientists and their institutions comply with safety conditions and regulations. The present guidelines will help achieve this throughout the ECOWAS region.”



Dr Aicha Drame, Pharmacist, Head of Division des Etablissements et laboratoires pharmaceutiques, Direction Nationale de la Pharmacie et du Medicament, Ministere de la sante, Guinée Conakry

« This meeting is very timely as it seeks to meet a very important need in the West Africa region. Our TWG focused on import/export, transfer, handling, labelling and storage of genetically modified arthropods. We were able to fully discuss the issues around this thematic area. Every member of the group was able to add his/her input to the document which is now well crafted and I am confident it be finalized very soon.”



Dr Moussa Guelbeogo, Entomologist, anti-malaria Specialist from the Ministry of Health, Burkina Faso

“Our TWG worked on the guidelines on containment facilities for the testing of genetically modified arthropods. We were able to amend the document and add significant inputs. Given the enthusiasm of the members of the group during the discussions, I am confident we will be able to continue to share information through emails after this workshop to refine the document before submitting it to the technical committee.”

Dr Aissata Toure, Pharmacist and Biologist, member of Senegal Comité Nationale d’Ethique pour la Recherche en Santé, and Chairperson of the Ethics TWG of the IVM platform.

“This meeting was really fruitful and we worked on important documents that will guide policy makers. In a short time, we did our best to improve the draft guidelines submitted to us. Our group worked on a guidance document for the testing of genetically modified arthropods. This document present the IVM initiative and the different technical aspects such as biosafety, risk analysis, ethics, community engagement and all the issues linked to IVM. We were able to peruse the document and add inputs for its improvement.”



Upcoming events

- **5 – 9 August:** Capacity strengthening on GM food labeling as a risk management measure and streamlining import procedures for food, feed and processing, Accra, Ghana
- **7 – 9 August:** Capacity building and strengthening for regulatory bodies from selected southern African region on the Science of Gene Drive, Maputo, Mozambique
- **12 – 14 August:** Information / sensitization seminar for Niger Members of Parliament, Niamey, Niger
- **12 – 16 August:** Conduct a biosafety needs assessment of the Zimbabwe National Biosafety Authority (ZNBA), Harare, Zimbabwe
- **12 – 15 August:** Continental Coordination committee for Biodiversity/Biosafety/ABS annual meeting to adopt 2019 work plan, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **17 – 21 August;** Consultation meetings on ABNE proposal and Development of a Synthesis report on Genome Editing, Johannesburg, South Africa
- **17 – 19 August:** Kenya National Biosafety Conference, Nairobi, Kenya
- **27 – 29 August:** Technical Support on dossier Review, Maputo, Mozambique
- **2 – 5 September:** Capacity strengthening of the government lawyers to support the competent authority on biosafety legal aspects, Maputo, Mozambique
- **8 – 12 September:** Capacity strengthening of the government lawyers to support the competent authority on biosafety legal aspects, Mbabane, Eswatini
- **15 – 18 September:** Refresher biosafety training workshop for the National Biosafety Regulatory Committee, Lilongwe, Malawi.



NEPAD Agency – African Biosafety Network of Expertise

Managing Editor: Dr Jeremy T. Ouedraogo

Editorial Team: Mr. Samuel Timpo, Dr Moussa Savadogo, Mr. Jean W. Kebere

Contact: Email: info@nepadbiosafety.net; Tel: (221) 33 859 18 79; Web: nepad-abne.net/

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