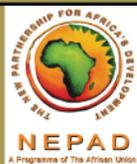


African Biosafety Network of Expertise



News Bulletin 1: June 2010

ABNE Service Network Launched

The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency launched the African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) on April 9, 2010, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. ABNE is a continent-wide service network of the NEPAD Agency with an overall goal of building functional biosafety systems in Africa.



This launch event was attended by more than 100 African regulators, scientists, policy makers, NEPAD Agency senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps and biosafety service providers along with representatives of stakeholder organizations in Burkina Faso, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Michigan State University, USA. The keynote speech was delivered by the minister for environment, science and technology of the Republic of Ghana. The representative for the Burkina Faso prime minister officially declared ABNE launched.

Preceding the launch ceremony was a two-day forum for African regulators and scientists aimed at better communication and cooperation between them. In addition, a coordination meeting for biosafety service providers was organized to foster collaboration and coordination among various biosafety capacity strengthening programs and projects being implemented in Africa.

This monthly bulletin will offer short news and updates from ABNE while more detailed reports on activities will be published in our biannual newsletter.

ABNE Services and Upcoming Events

ABNE services seek to empower African regulators and policy makers with a particular focus on members of national biosafety committees, institutional biosafety committees and plant quarantine officers.

Information resources

ABNE resources will include a web portal (www.nepadbiosafety.net), a documentation unit, policy briefs, newsletters and other publications, email listserv, hotline, CDs, DVDs, and roster of experts. Current status of these resources:

- Visit www.nepadbiosafety.net for policy briefs on environmental safety, food safety, socio-economics and legal aspects of biosafety.
- **July 2010:** Web portal launch.
- **July 2010:** Hotline launch.

Training, education and technical assistance

ABNE will organize workshops, short courses, online courses, internships, and study tours. Currently available:

- **June 29 – July 1, 2010:** NEPAD/ABNE – IFPRI/PBS Training on legal issues surrounding national biosafety regulatory systems in Naivasha, Kenya. Target group: Lawyers from Kenya and Uganda. For more information, contact: betty.kiplagat@nepadbiosafety.net



- **July 12, 2010:** Liability and Redress workshop for members of the Burkinabe parliament in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. For more information, contact: betty.kiplagat@nepadbiosafety.net
- **July 14–16, 2010:** East African regional biosafety workshop on risk assessment, risk management and decision making processes, Nairobi, Kenya. Target group: Regulators from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. For more information, contact: allan.liavoga@nepadbiosafety.net
- **July 25 – August 4, 2010:** NEPAD-MSU Environmental biosafety short course, East Lansing, Michigan, USA. For more information, contact: weebadde@msu.edu
- **August 25-27, 2010:** Consultative workshop with Mozambican National Biosafety Group. For more information, contact: moussa.savadogo@nepadbiosafety.net
- **September 14-16, 2010:** In-country training workshop for Nigerian Regulators on CFT compliance: For more information, contact: diran.makinde@nepadbiosafety.net
- **September 29 – October 1, 2010:** In-country training workshop for Ghanaian Regulators on the CFT application review process: For more information, contact: diran.makinde@nepadbiosafety.net
- **November 2010:** Regulatory study tour and internships for African regulators in South Africa. For more information, contact: sam.timpo@nepadbiosafety.net

Networking

ABNE will network through participation in regional and international meetings, forums and conferences. Coming up:

- **July 19-23, 2010:** FARA Science Week and General Assembly. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

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