



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NEPAD African Biosafety Network of Expertise: Building Functional Biosafety Systems

Background

The African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) seeks to support African countries build functional biosafety systems. Surveys and assessments conducted by ABNE revealed the need for a critical mass of well trained and skilled regulators to implement regulatory mandates. To address these needs, ABNE is adopting multiple approaches to provide education and training, including short courses, hands-on internship programs and regulatory study tours.

BIOSAFETY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose of the Internship

This internship aims to empower African regulators through knowledge and skills acquisition for the performance of regulatory functions.

Brief description of Internship:

ABNE seeks to assist build regulatory capacity through biosafety training, education, technical support and consultations. In achieving this goal, ABNE recognizes the importance of in-depth hands-on experience for regulators in developing and setting up functional regulatory systems. To facilitate the process, ABNE is offering 2-8 weeks biosafety internship opportunities to regulators from countries with interim National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs) to visit other countries with functional NBFs. The internship is a good opportunity for regulators to gain experience in the implementation of biosafety regulations.

Scope: Biosafety – The internship will focus on the theory and practice of risk assessment and management in agricultural biotechnology applications including biosafety procedures for transgenic crops under containment (laboratory and greenhouse) and confinement (field trials), and commercialization. Interns will work in a regulatory institution and also meet

with regulatory personnel from various stakeholder institutions and industry practitioners. At the end of the training, interns are expected to have acquired knowledge and skills in functions such as the development and implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs), handling and review of biosafety applications, best practices for the safe conduct, inspection and monitoring of confined field trials and GMO detection.

Duration: 2-8weeks

Target Group (1st set): Regulators in the following sub-Saharan African countries – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Required Competencies and Qualifications

Candidates from a wide range of disciplines but with relevant background and experience in biosafety and the applications of agricultural biotechnology; ability to work equally well in both team-oriented and self-directed environments, excellent inter-personal skills; ability to establish strong relationships with people of diverse cultures and multiple disciplines; ability to multitask; excellent numeracy and problem solving skills; strong attention to detail.

Minimum Eligibility Criteria for the Internship

The Applicant must

1. EITHER be a member of the National Biosafety Committee OR be working in a regulatory institution with oversight responsibilities for biosafety.
2. Be willing and able to intern on a full-time basis for a period of at least one (1) month.

Conditions Governing the Internship Programme

- Internships will be remunerated and all expenses pertaining to travel and boarding catered for by ABNE.
- Interns are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents including visas by themselves.
- Interns will be expected to have their own health, travel, and other necessary insurance.
- Interns shall at all times be expected to abide by the corporate policies and code of ethics of AU-NEPAD and the partnering institutions.
- Interns shall exercise the utmost discretion in all matters of official business of the partnering institutions and shall not at any time, without prior authorization, communicate confidential business information to any other person or authority external to the institution.
- The intern shall arrange for own transport to and from work place.

- The intern shall upon completion of internship prepare an exit report for submission to the partnering institution and ABNE.

Number of Internship Positions: Five (5)

Requirements from Applicants

1. Submit a CV or Résumé
2. Provide a narrative of no longer than three pages (double-spaced) describing your current biosafety schedule, rationale or motivation for participating in this program and how the training will be utilized upon completion of program.
3. Provide a detailed plan for applying your experience and new knowledge from the internship.
4. Submit an endorsement from the nominating institution or National Biosafety Committee.
5. Provide two letters of reference from individuals well acquainted with your work as a REGULATOR.

Contact Information

For more information about your potential application, and to submit applications, please contact:

Samuel E. Timpo

E-mail :sam.timpo@nepadbiosafety.net

Application Deadline

Applications for the 2010 awards must be received **on or before February 28, 2010**. Electronic letters of recommendations must also be submitted by the deadline.

BIOSAFETY REGULATORY STUDY TOURS

ABNE intends to organize on an annual basis, study tours aimed at promoting the sharing of knowledge and experience between regulators from countries with new and emerging biosafety systems on one hand and regulators and industry practitioners in countries that are conducting GE field trials and have commercialized biotech crops.

ABNE in collaboration with a partnering institution is organizing a tour of South Africa in April, 2010. The objectives of this tour are for regulators to:

1. to obtain first hand information on biotechnology and familiarize themselves with functional biosafety systems;
2. to have the opportunity to personally see transgenic crops in the field and directly interact with farmers growing these crops;
3. learn at first-hand from the regulatory experiences of their peers;
4. gain insight into the day-to-day practices and operational procedures of the South African regulatory body;
5. be exposed to stewardship plans and their implementation.

The study tours are expected to create a network of regulators and practitioners to facilitate cross-learning and the sharing of experiences and lessons in the future. The study tours are also expected to ensure experiential learning that will offer both group and self-directed activities for knowledge and skill enhancement.

Target Group: Regulators from the following sub-Saharan African countries - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Number of Positions Available: Fifteen (15)

Duration: One Week

Applicant Eligibility

1. Applications may be submitted by regulators who are members of National Biosafety Committees or be working in the area of biosafety in a regulatory institution.

Selection Process

All submitted applications will be screened for their direct relevance to biosafety. Successful applicants will be selected through a competitive process and communicated with by NEPAD-ABNE.

Conditions Governing the Internship Programme

- Daily subsistence allowance and all expenses related to travel and boarding will be catered for by ABNE.

- Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents including visas by themselves.
- Participants will be expected to have their own health and travel insurance.
- Participants shall at all times be expected to abide by the corporate policies and code of ethics of AU-NEPAD and the partnering institution (s).
- Participants shall at the end of the study tour submit a report ABNE.

Requirements from Applicants

1. Submit a CV or Résumé.
2. Provide a narrative of no longer than three pages (double-spaced) describing your current biosafety schedule, rationale or motivation for participating in this program and how the experience and new knowledge gained from the study tour will be utilized upon return to post.
3. Provide two letters of reference from individuals well acquainted with their work as a REGULATOR.

Contact Information

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Samuel E. Timpo

Program Officer (NEPAD-ABNE))

Email : sam.timpo@nepadbiosafety.net

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