

**NORWAY – ZAMBIA
COLLABORATION IN BIOSAFETY
CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Mwananyanda Mbikusita
Lewanika**

Executive Director

**National Institute for Scientific and
Industrial Research**

Biosafety Awareness

- *African Regional and Global Consultations on UNEP Technical Guidelines on Safety in Biotechnology.*
- *Southern and East African Project on Safety in Biotechnology.*
- *Negotiations of Biosafety Protocol under the auspices of the CBD.*
- *African Position during the negotiations of the Protocol.*

The Genesis of Project

- *Informal Discussion at the Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP).*
- *Formal Request by the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research to Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zambia.*
- *Fact Finding Mission by Norwegian Directorate of Nature Management (DN) and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research.*

The Basis of Collaboration

- ✓ *Signing of an Agreement between the Ministry of Science Technology and Vocational Training (MSTVT) and NORAD.*
- ✓ *Signing of an Agreement between the Directorate of Nature Management of Norway and the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research signed an agreement.*
- ✓ *A grant of NOK 3 000 000.0 given to Zambia based on a Project Document.*

Biosafety Capacity Building

- ❖ *Key prerequisite for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy .*
- ❖ *Establishment of appropriate biosafety institutional mechanisms and infrastructure, trained human resources and easy access to relevant information.*
- ❖ *Premise that is supported by Decisions BS-I/5 and BS-II/3 of COP-MOP .*

Policy Guidelines

- ❖ *UNEP Technical Guidelines on Safety in Biotechnology.*
- ❖ *National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy.*
- ❖ *National Biotechnology and Biosafety Strategic Plan.*
- ❖ *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.*
- ❖ *African Model Law on Safety on Biotechnology.*

The Project

- Assist Zambia implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy.*
- Stakeholder involvement in the project development as well as the identification of output and activities.*
- Project Advisory Committee comprising of stakeholders over sees project implementation.*

The Project

- Annual Review Meeting of all parties participating in the project.*
- Component I: Take steps that would lead to the enactment of an appropriate legislation.*
- Component II: Assist the NISIR perform its function as National Biosafety Focal Point in accordance with provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.*

Institutional Arrangement

- ❖ *DN and NISIR key partners in the initiation and planning of the project.*
- ❖ *Norad funding mechanism.*
- ❖ *The Norwegian Embassy link between Norway and Zambia.*
- ❖ *Component I: MSTVT.*
- ❖ *Component II: NISIR.*
- ❖ *DN link between Norwegian institutions and agencies with MSTVT and NISIR*

Institutional Arrangement

- The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board assisting in the implementation of Component I.
- The National Veterinary Institute (VI) and the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology (GenØk) are involved in training of Zambians scientists in molecular biology techniques with emphasis on research in recombinant DNA technology.
- VI advice in the design of the newly renovated and rehabilitated laboratory in identifying the equipment.

Project Achievements

- ✓ *“Acceptance in Principle” of draft legislation by the Zambian Cabinet.*
- ✓ *Rehabilitation and renovation a molecular biology laboratory at NISIR.*
- ✓ *Procurement of equipment for the molecular biology laboratory.*
- ✓ *National Biosafety Website:*
www.biosafety.org.zm

Project Achievements

- ✓ *Four scientists and a have Participated in the GENØK/UNEP biosafety capacity building course on “Holistic Foundations for Assessment and Regulation of Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms”.*
- ✓ *VI conducted a one day public lecture on biotechnology awareness in Zambia.*
- ✓ *VI conducted a one day theoretical training course on GMO testing and detection for Zambian scientists.*

Project Achievements

- ✓ Brochures on modern biotechnology and GMOs have been developed by MSTVT and NISIR .*
- ✓ Four Zambian scientists (2 from NISIR, 1 the Zambia Agricultural Institute and 1 from the Seed Certification and Control Institute) will be attached to VI for next two weeks.*
- ✓ Exploring the possibility of the attachment of two Zambian scientists to GenØk.*
- ✓ Exploring the possibility of attachment of a scientist from GenØk to NISIR.*

Lessons Learnt

- *Political will to have a biosafety policy that will be functional.*
- *Ownership of the biosafety policy by all stakeholders through their active participation in its development and implementation.*
- *Agencies developing the policy must be committed to it and must have a vision of how it will be implemented.*
- *Cooperating partners must explore other ways of furthering the collaboration in order to meet the objective of the project.*

Lessons Learnt

- *The development of a biosafety policy must be tied to the identification of entities that will implement the policy.*
- *Cooperating countries must have a common vision and commitment to implementing the project.*
- *Identification of collaborating institutions in cooperating countries.*
- *Constant communication between collaborating institutions in addition to formal reporting requirement.*

Lessons Learnt

- *Collaborating institution must take advantage opportunities that will further meeting the objectives of the project.*
- *It helps to have positive interpersonal relationship between individual involved in the implementation.*
- *Always keep in mind the beneficiaries of the project.*

Recommendation

- 1) Biosafety capacity building must be implemented in a wholesome manner by encompassing both human resource development as well as infrastructural establishment and strengthening .*

Recommendation

- 2) The Secretariat should monitor biosafety capacity building assistance in order to see who is providing assistance, who is receiving assistance and who is not receiving any assistance.*

Recommendation

- 3) Biosafety capacity building assistance must be mutually driven by recipients and providers taking into account aspirations of recipients and the interests of providers.*

Acknowledgement

- ❖ *Royal Norwegian Government.*
- ❖ *Royal Norwegian Embassy in Lusaka*
- ❖ *Norad, DN, VI and GenØk.*
- ❖ *Zambian Government*
- ❖ *MSTVT*
- ❖ *CBD Secretariat*

I THANK YOU