



REPORT

Events held in Nairobi, Kenya

April 15-16, 2013

1. **Workshop on GM matters and launch of policymakers' booklet: *Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa: Mobilising Science and Science Academies for Policy-making***
2. **Workshop on Academies and the Media**
3. **Academy Capacity Building**

These events were organised by the Kenya National Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Science of South Africa and funded by NASAC and the B4fa Programme.

1. **Workshop on GMO matters and launch of policymakers' booklet** - A policymakers' booklet: *Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa: Mobilising Science and Science Academies for Policy-making* was compiled that gives evidence-based scientific advice on how Genetic Modification (GM) regulatory/policy challenges can be overcome. It advises science academies about their policy advisory roles and providing the best evidence-based scientific advice. NASAC provided funding for the compilation of the booklet as well as the booklet being launched in several African countries.

This event session was attended by representatives from the Kenyan government, representatives from various science academies (Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa), journalists (Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya) and various other stakeholders. 50 delegates attended the session that was chaired by Prof Dominic Makawiti, Vice Chair KNAS and VC, Maseno University. The welcome address was done by Prof. Raphael Munavu, Chairman KNAS and Prof Shaukat Abdulrazak, Secretary/CEO, National Council for Science and Technology (NCST). Dr Takalani Rambau, Liaison Manager, ASSAf presented a message from the Academy of Science of South Africa. Dr Hennie Groenewald, Executive, Manager of Biosafety, South Africa introduced and handed the GM Booklet to Prof Raphael Munavu.

Dr Roy Mugiira, Senior Deputy Director of Research in the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology discussed GM Biotechnology Overview in Kenya: Kenya's Cabinet ban on Imports of GM Foods. This was followed by a Q&A and closing remarks.



Visit to Kenya Agricultural Research Institution (KARI) - KARI is a premier national institution bringing together research programmes in food crops, horticultural and industrial crops, livestock and range management, land and water management, and socio-economics. KARI promotes sound agricultural research, technology generation and dissemination to ensure food security through improved productivity and environmental conservation. The delegation visited KARI and met various scientists.



- 2. Workshop on Academies and the Media** – The B4fa Programme offers journalists in East Africa the opportunity to develop their skills as science journalists. The launch of the booklet was seen as an opportunity for the journalists to gain more knowledge of GM matters and also to network with scientists. B4fa provided funding for the journalists as well as for attendees of the workshop. Dorothy Ngila, ASSAf spoken on the activities of Academies and Rose Nyingi, Program Officer, NASAC gave an overview on the role of academies in Africa. Ochieng' Ogodo, Sub-Saharan Africa News Editor SciDev.Net discussed the role of the media in science communication. A break-away session was facilitated by Henriette Wagener, ASSAf, where scientists were given the opportunity to take on the task of the journalists.



- 3. Academy Capacity Building** - NASAC provided funding for a capacity building session by academies. Having various academy representatives from East Africa made this the ideal opportunity to host such a session. The session was chaired by Prof Makawiti and academy development and capacity building, leadership, strategic planning, governance and academy activities were discussed.

Summary

The following 2 video clips give a summary of both days. The videos were made by one of the journalists attending and were broadcasted in East Africa.

http://youtu.be/_z3v8H1d42I

<http://youtu.be/-4s0vnZrgMk>