

First Announcement & Call for Abstracts

The 3rd Biennial National Agricultural Biosciences (NABIO2018) Conference and Exhibition

25th -27th March 2018, Kampala Uganda

Uganda Industrial Research Institute, Conference Centre and Auditorium, Nakawa Industrial Area, Kampala, Uganda

Theme: “Addressing Hunger and Poverty through Biosciences research and Value Addition Innovations for Industrialization”

Proposed Chief Guest for NABIO2018: H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, a Champion and Patron of Science, Technology and Innovation in Uganda.



Participants of NABIO2015 pose for a group photograph, at Makerere University, Kampala, 23rd -25th November 2015

Introduction

Having organized the two previous Conferences NABIO2013 and NABIO2015, which hosted over 400 delegates from 16 countries, the Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development (SCIFODE) and its partners are pleased to announce the 3rd National Agricultural Biosciences Conference (NABIO2018). The 3rd Biennial National Biosciences Conference for 2018 will take place from 8th – 10th March 2018. The previous two conferences were held at the School of Food Sciences and Biosystems Engineering at Makerere University, Uganda's largest and premier University. However, due to an increased number of interested participants, the 3rd NaBIO2018 will take place at Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), in Kampala to also be in line with the theme of NaBIO2018. Traditionally, participants to NaBIO Conferences range from scientists, policy makers such as Members of Parliament, media practitioners, religious leaders and farmer leaders among others. The thrusts of the previous Conference were two-faceted: to link science to society through communicating what the scientists are doing in a simple language for the policy makers and farmers to understand them, and secondly, to provide a platform for scientists especially young scientists in Universities and research institutions in Uganda, East Africa and beyond to present their research findings, and exhibit their works to the public. NABIO2018 will go a step higher beyond these traditional facets of NABIO Conference. It will provide an opportunity for showcasing whole value chain processes from research to markets including income generation from bioscience innovations. On the basis of this background, therefore, the objectives of NaBIO2018 are:

1. To celebrate the works of bioscientists and innovators in Uganda, East Africa and beyond;
2. Link science to society through disseminating simplified messages to policy makers, farmer leaders and media persons, that can contribute to evidence-based policy making;
3. To provide an opportunity for scientists, innovators, processors, farmers among others to showcase whole value chain of bioprocesses from lab to market, to impact on livelihoods
4. To provide an opportunity for networking and information sharing among different and otherwise unconnected stakeholders;

Co-Organizing Partners of NABIO2018

Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development (SCIFODE), African Union-NEPAD Agency African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE), Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (UBBC), Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS), Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB), Uganda Biosciences Information Centre (UBIC), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) of Uganda, Makerere University and Ankole Western University.

Conference Venue



The Conference will be held at the Uganda Industrial Research Institute—a Government of Uganda agency established by the Uganda Industrial Research Institute Act of 2005, mandated to be a lead agency in the Industrialization of Uganda. The Institute is a unique hub for technology incubation, and transfer and a host to a start-up companies, laboratories (including biolabs), and small to medium-scale production plants of different products. It will provide opportunity for the Conference participants to appreciate how knowledge can be transformed into products and services for the benefit of society. The UIRI is located about 5 miles on the Kampala-Jinja highway right opposite to Kyamobogo University road.

Alignment to Global and National Priorities

The theme for the Conference is **“Addressing Hunger and Poverty through Biosciences research and Value Addition Innovations for Industrialization”** The choice of this theme by the NABIO2018 Conference Organizing Committee was based on the need to address Sustainable Goals #s 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 13. These are 1) Ending Poverty in all its forms; 2) End hunger, achieve food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture; 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all; 5) Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls; 7) Ensure access to affordable, and sustainable modern energy for all; 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; and 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. In a similar spirit, the African Union has adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024). The STISA-2024 is designed to respond to the need of transforming Africa into a Knowledge-based and Innovation-led Society. It is built to focus on six priority and strategic areas: i) Eradication of hunger and achieving food security; ii) prevention and control of diseases; iii) Communication (physical and intellectual mobility); iv) protection of the space (earth observation, monitoring of natural resources – minerals and biodiversity); v) living together and building the society (infrastructure, urban development, human capacity development); and vi) wealth creation (creativity, technological innovation).

At the East African Community level (EAC), the EAC Vision 2050 identifies Science, Technology and Innovation and Research and Development to be among the key enablers of regional

transformation, growth and development to subsequently achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the National level, the Conference is also aligned to the National Development priorities for Uganda as provided for in the National Development Plan II 2015/16- 2019/20 and Vision 3035 that recognize the need and importance of harnessing knowledge, science and technology-led society as it aspires to transform into a lower middle income economy.

Conference Sessions

The theme will guide the Conference to demonstrate how science can or has positively impacted society in various ways, but in a sustainable manner. Thus, the conference will be divided into specific sessions that will comprise of the following:

- i. Bioscience research and Development
- ii. Food Security
- iii. Technology transfer
- iv. Climate Change & Climate mitigation
- v. Innovations and Value Addition
- vi. Biotechnology and Biosafety
- vii. Intellectual Property Rights
- viii. Bioeconomy and Bioeconomics
- ix. Bioscience communication and biopolicy
- x. Women and Youth in bioscience

Speakers

Local, regional and international scientists, innovators, science policy experts, policy makers, farmers & farmer leaders, extension officers, private-sector representatives, academics, among others will make keynote address and present papers during the different sessions of the Conference. The Biennial National event will gain take place in 2020.

Call for Abstracts and Registration Procedures

This 1st announcement at the same time calls for abstracts from interested participants to the Conference. Please indicate your preferred session for your paper. However, the final decision on which session your paper falls remains the responsibility of the Conference Organizing Committee hosted by SCIFODE. The time lines for abstracts and full papers are given below:

| Item | Activity | Dates |
|---|---|--|
| 1 st Announcement and call for abstracts | Submission of Abstracts and registration to participate | Open till 31 st January 2018 |
| Submission of Papers | Submission of Papers and Registration | Open till 28 th February 2018 |
| Late Registration | Late Registration | Open till 15 th February 2018 |

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| Expression Interest to Exhibit | Expression of Interest to Exhibit | Open till 15 th February 2018 |
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Prospective paper presenters must submit their application forms with an abstract of their paper clearly proposing a session in which their paper would be presented. All abstracts will be published in a Proceedings Publication for NABIO2018 Conference. Quality full papers will be published in the inaugural Volume of the East African Journal of Science and Technology, owned by the East African Commission for Science and Technology (EASTECO), an agency of the East African Community — www.easteco.org (discussions are underway).

Conference participation fees

Each participant will be required to pay USD150 (One fifty US dollars only), Ugandan participants will be expected to pay UGX. 300,000 (three hundred thousand shillings only per participant). This fee will cater for day meals break teas, and lunches. Transport to and from the venue, and accommodation are not part of this fee. Enquiries on arrangements for transportation and accommodation can be made directly to the conference secretariat.

Registration Procedures

Please download the Conference Registration Form from www.scifode-foundation.org, and submit it together with your abstract and once the abstract is approved, you will be guided on payment procedures. Participants with presentation will receive a discount on registration fees amounting to USD30 per person or UGX 100,000 (One hundred thousand shillings). Persons interested in only participating, will simply be required to submit the completed registration form, and paying the conference participation fees to confirm their participation.

Student participation

Students will be required to pay subsidized registration fees of only USD75 or UGX 200,000 (with proof of studentship).

Conference Exhibition & Poster Session

Persons interested in participating in the Exhibition and Poster session will download and submit Exhibition Request Form from www.scifode-foundation.org clearly explaining the kind of technology, innovation or product they will be displaying, as well as their space requirements. The Conference secretariat will then communicate back to them, clarifying on a number of issues. Subsequently, their participation will be confirmed if the requirements are met (including payment of a fees yet to be fixed by the Conference Organizing Committee). Submission of Expression of Interest to Exhibit forms should submitted at the latest 10 days before the date of the Conference. The Exhibition will run along the Conference at the same venue at the Uganda Industrial Research Institute. The Uganda Industrial Research Institute itself, is an exhibition of its own right in that it hosts a number of laboratories (including biotech labs), start-up innovation

projects and pilot production plants of some innovators. All this will be visited during the Conference to the benefit of the Conference participants. The Conference Exhibition and Poster Session will be coordinated by Makerere University Biotechnology Society (MUBIS) in collaboration with the Conference Organising Committee and Secretariat.

Conference Organising Committee Secretariat

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