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Activity 14.1: Mali workshop

ACTIVITY REPORT

"Communicating Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety: Opportunities and Challenges"

Training workshop for journalists and scientists
Bamako, Mali, 16-17 July 2007

COMMUNICATING AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY:

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Program Title:	**Short-Term Assistance in Biotechnology**
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1. INTRODUCTION

Modern Agricultural Biotechnology

The improvement of the genetic make-up of crops to enhance their agronomic qualities and performance is as old as agriculture itself. Farmers have traditionally crossed their crops to related species harboring desired traits, and have selected among the progeny the plants which better suited their needs. The development of modern biotechnology techniques, specifically of genetic engineering (GE), has lend breeders a new, powerful tool to accomplish this task, as it allows to precisely identify the genes responsible for a trait, and to transfer these into crops.

Although not a replacement of conventional breeding methods, GE may provide a better solution, in specific circumstances, to agricultural constraints such as pests, diseases and adverse environmental conditions. At the same, GE is also a highly controversial technology that generates public concerns that fall both within and outside the scientific domain. Ultimately, the success of any new technology and its products depends on whether these are adopted by the intended users: farmers and consumers in the case of genetically modified (GM) crops.

Effective science communication is an essential part of technology acceptance, as it is indispensable to promote an open and transparent debate about the potential benefits, and also potential risks, of new technologies on a case-by-case basis. This debate is also central to ensure the responsible adoption of novel technologies, and to guarantee that users have a genuine choice.

Science Communication and the Media

For the majority of people, the main exposure to science developments after formal education occurs mainly, if not exclusively, through the media. The media therefore plays an essential role in science communication, as it represents the main bridge between scientists and the public.

Scientist and journalists are thus two key players in ensuring effective communication of issues related to new biotechnology developments. The relationship between scientists and journalists is however not an easy one. The main barrier to effective communication is language, as science has evolved a highly specialized and technical vocabulary. However, messages for the media (and the public!) must be presented in simple terms, avoiding jargon and unnecessary details. Other challenges include the fact that most science journalists have not had specific training in sciences, which can lead to mistakes, over-simplification, and to out-of-context references, especially in cases when the original message is complex and lacks clarity.

However, it is important for scientists to realize that the media responds to public demand, and that journalists have to work under a specific set of conditions. As scientists will not change the way the media functions, they must learn to understand it better, and

to work with it more effectively and to their advantage. Ultimately, scientists must fully embrace their responsibility to communicate, and they must do so with the means that are available to them.

2. WORKSHOP RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW

While scientists will have a very clear idea of what the public "needs to know" with regards to a new technological advancement, the media will generally be more sensitive to what the public "wants" to know. Improving the communication between the two groups will therefore greatly enhance the quality and quantity of biotechnology reporting, and ultimately benefit the public debate on biotechnology. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide journalists with a better understanding of issues related to biotechnology, and to provide both groups -media professionals and scientists- the opportunity to interact and thereby improve the quality of reporting

The timing of this activity in Mali is also crucial: the Presidential Decree on Biosafety was signed earlier this year, and the legislation is now pending for adoption by the Parliament. In addition, neighboring country Burkina Faso is currently in their fifth year of trials for Bt cotton, and plans to commercialize this biotech crop next year. Genetically modified crops are therefore now a reality in West Africa, and regardless of the opinion one may have on their regards, the option of ignoring them is not there.

ISAAA, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Application, has collaborated several times in the past with the Network of Journalists Reporting on Biotechnology in West Africa, RECOAB (*Réseau des Communicateurs ouest-Africains sur la Biotechnologie*). The network comprises both Francophone and Anglophone West African journalists, and its members have been implicated in the organization of several training for journalists in the region.

In addition, ISAAA has an ongoing collaboration program with IER (*l'Institut d'Economie Rurale du Mali*) for the dissemination of scientific information on agricultural biotechnology, and for improving public understanding of the technology.

The workshop was unique in the fact that RECOAB and IER were both actively implicated in the organization of the event, and in the training sessions during the workshop. As one of the main objectives of the event was to increase the level of interaction between these two groups of professionals, journalists and scientists, we believe the extensive communication needed for the preparation of the event already partially accomplished this goal.

In addition to RECOAB and IER, also involved in the organization were John Komen and Walter Alhassan from PBS, the Program for Biosafety Systems. PBS program was established to support countries in Africa and Asia for the responsible development and safe use of agricultural biotechnology.

By setting up links and organizing activities that implicate all the main players in the biotechnology arena, we hope to establish a more synergistic effort to counteract the activity of anti-GM lobby groups in the country. RECOAB and IER have started to collaborate in the design of radio plugs on biotechnology, to be aired later this year.

The workshop was conducted over two days, and it comprised half a day of seminars for all participants covering basic principles of biotechnology and biosafety. This was followed by separate afternoon sessions for journalists and scientists: a training session on practices for accurate and responsible biotechnology reporting for journalists, and a risk communication session for scientists. During the second day of the workshop, both groups jointly visited a research institute - Institut Polytechnique Rural de Katibougou (IPR) Mali involved in plant micro-propagation work. The last afternoon session included an open debate, and a questions and answers session, between journalists and scientists.

The dates of the workshop were chosen to partially overlap with a regional meeting on biosafety organized by INSAH (*l'Institut du Sahel*). This allowed us to invite Jérémie Ouédraogo, from Burkina Faso, and Gregory Jaffe, from the United States, both attending INSAH's meeting, to participate in the workshop as resource persons. We are very grateful that they accepted to join our training workshop. Their contribution was highly valuable, and much appreciated by all participants. Additional international resource persons were Walter Alhassan, from Ghana, supported by PBS, and Ibbo Daddy, the RECOAB Coordinator from Niger, in charge of the media training. ISAAA is also very grateful to the experts from Mali who accepted the invitation to give a seminar in the workshop. These include Mohamadou Traoré and Coulibaly Salimata, members of the Consultative Group on Biosafety of Mali, and Siaka Dembélé, Regional Coordinator on Biosafety, INSAH.

The workshop was co-funded by USAID and ISAAA.

3. WORKSHOP SEMINARS

3.1. Introduction to Modern Biotechnology: Definitions, Issues and Concerns- Jeremy Ouédraogo

Dr. Ouédraogo explained to participants how biotechnology is a very ancient science, with its origins in the domestication of animals and crops for agriculture, and the preparation of cheese and bread. Dr. Ouédraogo also related the scientific advances that lead to the birth of modern biotechnology tools, and described some of the break-throughs made possible by these discoveries, including the large-scale production of insulin. The basis of heredity, and the main concepts and applications of genetic engineering were also explained.

3.2. The Status of the Biosafety Regulation in Mali,- Mohamadou Traoré and Mme Coulibaly Salimata

Dr. Traoré, from the Consultative Group for Biosafety of Mali, explained the basic concepts of biosafety, and the advantages and potential risks of genetic engineering. The main objectives and programs of the international frameworks for biosafety were explained.

Dr Traoré also gave a detailed account of the mandates and organization of the legal framework in Mali, a project of the Consultative Group for Biosafety (CGB). The CGB has been active for one year, and it is composed of members of several relevant Ministries, including Agriculture, Environment, Health and Education.

Mme Salimata, also a member of the CGB and the head of a consumer organization in Mali, explained the need to develop the human and technical capacity for dealing with GMOs in Mali, observing the country currently does not possess the expertise nor infrastructures required to determine whether unauthorized GMOs are present in Malian food chain already.

3.3. Overview of Modern Biotechnology in the Sub-region- Walter Alhassan

Dr. Alhassan related the need to improve food production globally, and more specifically in West Africa, in order to reduce the current levels of food insecurity and to provide a solution to the problem of feeding an increasing global population. Water scarcity in the region, the most severe problem faced by farmers, and civil unrest in some countries have aggravated the food security situation.

Modern biotechnology applications, and in specific GM, can provide a valuable contribution to agriculture in West Africa as part of a portfolio of approaches designed to improve productivity. Nonetheless, the only country in West Africa currently performing advanced trials of GM crops is Burkina Faso.

The deployment of GM crops in the region is tightly linked with the development of a suitable biosafety framework in each country. Also needed is an increased political commitment by governments, which would translate into the availability of funds required to develop human capacity in biotechnology, and to build suitable infrastructures for research. This would facilitate the development of GM crops specifically designed to meet national demands, such as sorghum, millet, pigeon peas and cassava.

The current regional initiatives to improve capacity in biosafety were reviewed by Dr. Alhassan with special reference to CORAF, INSAH and WAEMU-World Bank intiative.

3.4. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech Crops: 2006 Report- Margaret Karembu

Dr. Karembu gave an account of the latest report (2006) on the global status of biotech crops. The rate of increase of GM crops in 2006 was 13%, and the area under cultivation of GM crops continues to rise in both developed and developing countries. Worth noting

is that in the African continent, only South Africa has approved GM crops for cultivation. In addition, the only other country in advanced stages of developing and testing biotech crops is Burkina Faso.

3.5. Modern biotechnology and Biosafety: A Consumer's Perspective- Gregg Jaffe

Dr. Jaffe presented the audience with a description of the objectives and mandates of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), the consumer's organization he directs. CSPI is a not-for profit NGO mainly concerned with nutrition issues, and with a mandate for science-based education. CSPI receives no funds from either the industry or the government, and is almost totally funded by member's subscription fees.

CSPI's position on biotechnology, based on a careful review of the available scientific literature on the topic, is that approved GM crops are safe for consumers, and benefit the environment. What is the roadmap for consumers' acceptance of biotech crops? Although benefits to the environment and to farmers of GM crops are often well explained, benefits to consumers need to be better communicated to the public. Similarly, the available information regarding environmental and food safety risks of biotech crops needs to be made accessible to all. Also important is to acknowledge and bring into the debate socio-economic, ethical and intellectual property rights issues, however stressing that these considerations are not part of the safety assessment of GM crops.

In the context of biotechnology in Africa, agricultural biotechnology is one of the technologies that could further development, although it is no panacea. Public acceptance will be linked to the development of effective biosafety systems, and with the national development of GM crops of local importance with direct benefits to African consumers. For this, there is an urgent need to increase investment on public-sector agricultural biotechnology research in the region.

The characteristics of an ideal biosafety system, and the issues in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol were also reviewed.

3.6. Addressing concerns over modern biotechnology: Introduction to the Regional Biosafety Initiative- Siaka Debéélé

Dr Dembélé reviewed the initiative led by the Institute of Sahel (INSAH) for a regional approach for biosafety in West Africa. The legal framework would regulate risk evaluation procedures, research protocols, and the modalities of approvals and use of GM crops. These measures would ensure the safety of biotech crops for humans and the environment, and at the same time allow the region to benefit from the use of novel technologies.

3.7. Media Training- Reporting on Biotechnology - Ibbo Daddy, Célia D'Almeida, Claudia Canales

Mr. Daddy and Ms D'Almeida reviewed the principles of good science and biotechnology reporting, and the opportunities and challenges for journalists working in this area. Mr. Daddy explained that agricultural biotechnology is a complex set of techniques, and therefore a difficult science that requires effort and patience to understand it properly. The basis of good science journalism is therefore mainly hard work, but an investment that can also be very rewarding.

Among the basic principles of good reporting are: brevity and clarity; avoiding jargon and technical terms; using images and analogies; explaining the social significance of the results of research; and presenting both sides of an argument. Also important for journalists is to build their portfolio of contacts, mainly among the community of researchers in their country, as sources of information for writing news stories. The trainers emphasized the importance of using reliable and authoritative scientific information. Good and bad examples of print media on biotechnology were reviewed and commented.

Dr. Canales reviewed the role of the media in the UK GM debate, to underline the social role of journalists in communicating science advances and their significance to the public, and their critical role in technology acceptance.

3.8. Risk Communication Training for Scientists- Gregg Jaffe, Margaret Karembu, Walter Alhassan

Dr. Karembu and Dr. Alhassan explained the principles, approaches and methods of risk communication. Scientists have a social responsibility to communicate scientific advances, to avoid anxieties, misconceptions, and ultimately public distrust in novel technologies. Effective communication implies transparency and openness, to promote scientific understanding. Risk communication is a science-based approach for communicating sensitive topics in situations of high risk and/or low trust. The differences in the perception of risk between the public and scientists, and implications for effective communication were reviewed.

Dr. Jaffe briefed scientists about the practical issues in risk communication, and how to be best prepared to effectively handle media enquiries. Preparation is essential: and scientists should have clear talking points on the messages they want to convey; have examples ready to provide illustrations, and most importantly, anticipate the issues most like to be of concern or controversial. As the most common barrier to effective communication is language, messages should be simple and accurate, stressing the most important points instead of overloading with details. Public concerns should be acknowledged, and the required information should be provided in an accessible and clear way. Tips for successful interviews were also provided.

4. PARTICIPANTS' EXPECTATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

All participants were asked to write down their main expectations from the workshop at the beginning of the workshop. A compilation/summary of their submissions is presented below.

Journalists:

- Improve knowledge on biotechnology and biosafety
- Improve knowledge on the economic, environmental and health aspects of biotechnology products
- Understand the difference between the different types of biotechnological tools
- Learn about the state of biotechnology in Mali
- Understand the level of implication of the civil societies and farmers' associations in the GM debate
- Learn of the state of GM crops globally
- Lear about biosafety measures established in developed countries
- Learn techniques to gather information for reporting
- Improve the quality of biotechnology reporting
- Establish an operational working relationship between scientists and journalists
- Facilitate the approach of scientists in the future by journalists, to obtain information and answer questions
- Seek to understand whether GM food transform humans in monsters or cause illnesses, or whether they can make humans stronger
- Understand the position of Mali regarding GM crops in agriculture
- Understand the motives of scientists of industrialized countries for pursuing biotechnology research and for promoting it
- Have a better understanding of the environmental and health concerns regarding the consumption of GM food

Scientists:

- Improve the relationship and level of interaction between journalists and scientists
- Improve the communication skills of the scientific community
- Learn how to better communicate the results of research to the wider community
- Learn about communication principles and methods
- Learn how to communicate risk to anti-GM groups
- Lear how to communicate to civil society groups, communities, and farmers associations
- Understand better the problematic areas of the subject: the applications of biotechnology and of derived products
- Reach the most appropriate communication channels for the sharing of simple and concise messages
- Master the principles of biotechnology, and its strengths and weaknesses

- Better inform journalists on biotechnology issues to facilitate good reporting

5. WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Participants were asked to fill an evaluation form in French at the end of the workshop. A total of 29 participants completed the forms. Rating was 1, for poor, to 5, for excellent. The evaluation results are presented below:

i) Relevance of the workshop objectives
Fair 2 Good 15 Very good 8 Excellent 2 Blank 2

ii) Usefulness of the workshop
Good 11 Very good 11 Excellent 6 Blank 1

iii) Workshop organization
Fair 3 Good 20 Very good 3 Excellent 2 Blank 1

iv) Quality of the workshop (clarity of presentation, content of material, etc.)
Fair 3 Good 16 Very good 8 Excellent 2

v) Relevance of the subjects
Good 15 Very good 8 Excellent 6

vi) Quality and relevance of the discussion sessions
Fair 5 Good 20 Very good 7 Excellent 2
vii) Topics most useful: biotechnology; biosafety; reporting techniques; analysis of advantages and potential risks of GMOs

viii)Topics least useful: biosafety

ix) Subjects that should have been developed further: GMOs; biosafety; communication techniques; the state of biotechnology research in Mali; specific biotech crops (such as Bt cotton, Bt maize, etc); capacity in Mali to assess the presence of GMOs in the food chain, and to analyze their potential food safety risk.

x) Subjects to include in future workshops: principles of genetic engineering; food safety; advantages and disadvantages of GMOs; the precautionary principle; IPR issues; socio-economic impacts of GMOs.

All participants voted the field excursion useful, and thought other people would benefit from the same workshop.

6. WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are the list of recommendations proposed by the workshop participants.

- Regular availability of information on biotechnology and biosafety, including clear explanations of the concepts/terminology used
- Assign scientists in research centers who are permanently available to provide information to journalists
- Increase budget available in research centers for communication and disseminating research findings and educational information materials.
- Identify good translators for technical terms
- Translate all the PowerPoint presentations to French
- Schedule longer discussion sessions, to provide more opportunity to journalists to ask questions to scientists
- Organize press conference/radio plugs on biotechnology
- Have a continuity of trainings
- Simplify the program, to make content more accessible to journalists, and to increase the amount of time available for discussions
- Make the training available to a larger number of journalists
- Include presentations by Malian scientists doing biotechnology research
- Better time management during seminar sessions
- Provide information on research projects geared towards improving local development
- Journalists attending the workshop should arrange similar discussions sessions on biotechnology in their own villages, for a better dissemination of knowledge

Appendix 1: Workshop Program

ACCROÎTRE DES QUALIFICATIONS DE COMMUNICATION SUR LA BIOTECHNOLOGIE MODERNE AU MALI :

APPROCHES ET METHODES DANS LA COMMUNICATION DE RISQUE

Juillet 15-18, 2007

IER,

Bamako, Mali

Program d`Atelier - JOURNALISTES

JOUR 1 **Dimanche, Juillet 15, 2007: Arrivée des Participants**		
JOUR 2: Lundi, Juillet 16, 2007		
PREMIERE SESSION : Tous les participants **Président : Dr Ndiaye Mohamed :**		
HEURE	**ACTIVITÉ**	**PERSONNES DE RESSOURCE**
8.00-8.30 hr	Inscription	**RECOAB/IER**
8.30-9.00 hr	Discours d`ouverture et accueil	**Dr Bino Témé,** Directeur Général de l'IER **Dr. Margaret Karembu,** Directrice, ISAAA AfriCenter **Dr Walter Alhassan -** PBS – West Africa **Ms. D'Almeida Celia -** RECOAB
9.00-9.15 hr	Présentations et espérances de l`Atelier	**Dr. Claudia Canales** ISAAA
9.15 – 9.45 hr	Introduction à la biotechnologie moderne – Définitions, questions et soucis	**Dr. Jeremy Ouédraogo,** Scientifique / Deputé (Burkina)
9.45-10.15 hr	vue d'ensemble du statut général de biotechnologie au Mali **Points culminants** • Bio sûreté : Règles et Règlements Groupe consultatif sur la biotechnologie (GCB)	**Dr. Mohamadou Traoré,** Point Focal de la Bio sûreté. **Mme Coulibaly Salimata**
10.15-10.45 hr	vue d'ensemble de la biotechnologie moderne dans la région secondaire	**Dr. Walter Alhassan** PBS – Ouest Afrique

10.45.11-00 hr	Statut global des récoltes biotechnologiques commercialisées : Rapport 2006	**Dr. Margaret Karembu** ISAAA AfriCenter
11.00-11.20 hr: Rafraîchissements: Photo du Groupe		
11.20-11.45hr	Discusssions pléniers	**Mme Coulibaly Salimata Diarra** CGB
11.45-12.15hr	Biotechnologie modernes et bio sûreté : une perspective du consommateur	**Dr. Gregg Jaffe** Centre pour la Science dans l'intérêt public, Etats-Unis
12.15-12.45 hr	Adressage des questions de la biotechnologie moderne	**Dr. Siaka Dembele** Coordinateur sous-régional de biosécurité Institut du Sahel (CILSS)
12.45-1.00 hr	Discussions pléniers	**Dr. Niaba Teme**
1.00 -2.00 hr Dejeuner		
SESSION TROIS **Session Média : Présidente : Claudia Canales**		
2.00 –2.50 hr	Reportage de la biotechnologie agricole : Défis et occasions	**Mr Ibbo Daddy–** RECOAB (Référence : Gènes et germes)
2.50-3.20 hr	Techniques d'interview pour le reportage efficace de la science en copie et électronique	**RECOAB** Ms. d'Almeida Dédé Faconam
3.20 –4.00 hr	Comment rechercher et écrire une histoire agricole précise, équilibrée et efficace de biotechnologie (exemples de revue de bonnes et mauvaises histoires biotechnologiques : copie et	**RECOAB**

	électronique)	
4.00 – 4.20 hr : Rafraîchissements		
4.00-4.20 hr	Études de cas biotechnologiques (via vidéo) • Bt Coton en Inde • Burkina Bt coton , vidéo d`atelier ambulant. • Bt Mais en Afrique du sud	**Tous les participants**
4.20-5.00 hr	Examen des études de cas et des discussions	**Mr. Ibbo Daddy**
7.00 hr: Réception de Cocktail		
JOUR 3 : MARDI, Juillet 17, 2007		
SESSION TROIS : SCIENTIFIQUES AND JOURNALISTES **Prés: Dr. Niaba Teme**		
7.30 hr– 1.00 hr	Excursion de champ : Université de Bamako	**IER/RECOAB** **Dr. Koita**
SESSION QUATRE **Prés: Dr Claudia Canales**		
2.00-3.00 hr	Application des techniques: entrevues avec des scientifiques en live	**RECOAB**
3.00-4.00hr	Rejouer des cassettes enregitrées /des commentaires et des discussions	**RECOAB** **Facilitateurs**
4.00 – 4.30 hr	Évaluation et étapes à suivre	**Dr. Margaret Karembu**
4.30-5.00 hr	Observations finales Remerciements	**IER** **ISAAA** **CGB** **PBS West Africa** **USAID Rep.**
	Remise des certificats et les discours officiels de clôture	**Dr. Jeremy Ouédraogo Ou fonctionaire du Ministère de l` Agriculture**
DAY FOUR: **Mercredi , Juillet 18 , 2007 - Départs**		

ACCROÎTRE DES QUALIFICATIONS DE COMMUNICATION SUR LA BIOTECHNOLOGIE MODERNE AU MALI :

APPROCHES ET METHODES DANS LA COMMUNICATION DE
Juillet 15-18, 2007
IER,
Bamako, Mali

Program d`Atelier - SCIENTIFIQUES

JOUR 1 **Dimanche, Juillet 15, 2007: Arrivée des Participants**		
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PREMIERE SESSION : Tous les participants **Président : Dr Ndiaye Mohamed :**		
HEURE	**ACTIVITÉ**	**PERSONNES DE RESSOURCE**
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9.00-9.15 hr	Présentations et espérances de l`Atelier	**Dr. Claudia Canales** ISAAA
9.15 – 9.45 hr	Introduction à la biotechnologie moderne – Définitions, questions et soucis	**Dr. Jeremy Ouédraogo,** Scientifique / Deputé (Burkina)
9.45-10.15 hr	vue d'ensemble du statut général de biotechnologie au Mali **Points culminants** • Bio sûreté : Règles et Règlements Groupe consultatif sur la biotechnologie (GCB)	**Dr. Mohamadou Traoré, Point Focal de la Bio sûreté** **Mme Coulibaly Salimata**
10.15-10.45 hr	vue d'ensemble de la biotechnologie moderne dans la région secondaire.	**Dr. Walter Alhassan** PBS – Afrique de l`ouest
10.45.11-00 hr	Statut global des récoltes biotechnologiques	**Dr. Margaret Karembu**

	commercialisées : Rapport 2006	ISAAA AfriCenter
11.00-11.20 hr: Rafraîchissements: Photo du Groupe		
11.20-11.45hr	Discusssions pléniers	**Mme Coulibaly Salimata Diarra** CGB
11.45-12.15hr	Biotechnologie modernes et bio sûreté : une perspective du consommateur	**Dr. Gregg Jaffe** Centre pour la Science dans l'intérêt public, Etats-Unis
12.15-12.45 hr	Adressage des questions de la biotechnologie moderne. Introduction à l'initiative régionale de Bio sûreté.	**Prof. Walter Alhassan** PBS – Afrique de l`ouest
12.45-1.00 hr	Discussions pléniers	**Dr. Niaba Teme**
1.00 -2.00 hr Dejeuner		
SESSION DEUX **SESSION DE SCIENTIFIQUES : Présidente : Prof.Walter Alhassan**		
2.00 –2.50 hr	Les principes de communication et accès. Rationalité et théories pour la communication de risque.	**Dr. Margeret Karembu** ISAAA AFRICENTER
2.50-3.20 hr	Principes de communication de risque	**Dr. Gregg Jaffe** Centre pour la Science dans l'intérêt public, Etats-Unis.
3.20 –4.00 hr	Discussion et exercices : Les clips visuels sur des réponses aux questions principales.	ISAAA
4.00 – 4.20 hr : Rafraîchissements		
4.00-4.20 hr	Application des principes de communication de risque dans le développement des cartes de message.(diagrammes)	**Prof. Walter Alhassan** PBS L'Afrique occidentale
4.20-5.00 hr	Travail en groupe : développement des cartes de message principales. (Être proposé par les participants) - Environnement - Adoption Globale - Avantages - Législation - Capacité etc	**Facilitateur** Dr. Siaka Dembele -INSAH
7.00 hr: Réception de Cocktail		
JOUR 3 : MARDI, Juillet 17, 2007		

SESSION TROIS : SCIENTIFIQUES AND JOURNALISTES **Prés: Dr. Niaba Teme**		
7.30 hr– 1.00 hr	Excursion de champ : Université de Bamako	**IER/RECOAB** **Dr. Koita**
SESSION QUATRE **Prés: Dr Claudia Canales**		
2.00-3.00 hr	Application des techniques: entrevues avec des scientifiques en live (joue de rôle)	**RECOAB :**
3.00-4.00hr	Rejouer des cassettes enregistrées /des commentaires et des discussions	**RECOAB** **Facilitateurs**
4.00 – 4.30 hr	Évaluation et étapes à suivre	**Dr. Margaret Karembu**
4.30-5.00 hr	Observations finales Remerciements	**IER** **ISAAA** **CGB** **PBS West Africa** **USAID Rep.**
	Remise des certificats et les discours finals.	**Dr. Jeremy Ouédraogo Ou fonctionaire du Ministère de l` Agriculture**
DAY FOUR: **Mercredi , Juillet 18 , 2007 - Départs**		

Appendix 2: List of Participants

« Communication sur la biotechnologie agricole et la biosécurité : enjeux et perspectives »

Name	Title	Gender	Institution	Country	Area	Address	Telephone	Email
ALHASSAN Walter S.	PBS Coordinator	M	FARA Secretariat	Ghana	Accra	P.O Box G 173, Accra, Ghana	233 21 772823	walhassan@fara-africa.org
BOUARE Diassé	Journaliste – réalisateur	M	Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision du Mali	Mali	Bamako		223 2212019 223 6967225	
CAMARA Boubacar S.	Journaliste	M	Radio Kayira	Mali	Bamako	Djélibougou Commune I Bamako	223 9151808 223 2248782	mohamedkm113@yahoo.fr
CISSE Ousmane	Responsable lao mycoplasmes et mycoplasmoses	M	Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire	Mali	Bamako	Route de Koulikoro Km 8 BP 2295	223 2243344	lallabou@yahoo.fr
COULIBALY Aguibou	Directeur Programme Radio Faso Kanu Correspondant de presse	M	AMAP/ORTM	Mali	Banamba	Fofanala Banamba	223 6256835	aguiboucoulou@yahoo.fr
COULIBALY Moriba	Journaliste	M	Agence Malienne de Presse et de Publicité (AMAP)	Mali	Bamako	Square Patrice Lumumba	223 6874895	moribac@yahoo.fr
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Appendix 3: Press Clippings

Presse : L'ACTUALITÉ BIOTECHNOLOGIQUE

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L'Institut d'économie rurale (IER) a organisé en collaboration avec le Réseau des communicateurs ouest-africains sur la biotechnologie (RECOAB), le Service international des acquisitions pour les applications agro-biotechnologiques (ISAAA), le Programme pour les systèmes de biosécurité (PBS), une session de formation à l'intention des journalistes sur le thème "Communication sur la biotechnologie : enjeux et perspectives".

L'atelier, qui s'est tenu les 17 et 18 juillet à l'hôtel Mandé, était présidé par le directeur général de l'IER, le Dr Bino Temé. Cette session de formation était animée par des scientifiques et des personnalités du monde de la presse de haut niveau venant de l'IER, de ISAAA, de l'Institut du Sahel (INSAH) du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), du PBS, du Burkina Faso et du Niger. Une vingtaine de journalistes de la presse publique et privée et des radios locales de Bamako, Banamba, Sikasso, Gao, Mopti, Tombouctou, Koutiala, Kita et Ségou ont pris part à le session, la première du genre initiée par le RECOAB-Mali.

Des exposés ont été faits aux journalistes sur différents thèmes comme "l'introduction à la biotechnologie moderne" présentée par le Dr Jérémy Ouédraogo, scientifique à l'Institut national de l'environnement et de la recherche agricole (INERA) et député à l'Assemblée nationale du Burkina Faso, "Biosécurité et réglementation en vigueur" expliqué par le Dr Mohamadou Traoré, point focal Biosécurité du Mali, le "Groupe consultatif sur la biotechnologie (CGB)" présenté par Mme Coulibaly Salimata Diarra, présidente de l'Association des consommateurs du Mali (ASCOMA). Ils ont également suivi d'autres exposés comme "Aperçu de la biotechnologie moderne dans la sous-région ouest africaine" présenté par le Dr Walter Alhassan, coordinateur du PBS, "l'état de la commercialisation des produits de la biotechnologie dans le monde" présenté par le Dr Margaret Karembu, représentante de ISAAA en Afrique.

Des scientifiques maliens et étrangers ont accepté d'apporter leur expertise à l'animation de débats qui ont permis aux journalistes de consolider leur connaissance de la biotechnologie et de ses applications dans l'agriculture. Les participants ont visité, durant l'atelier, le laboratoire de micro-plants de l'Institut polytechnique rural/ Institut de formation et de recherches appliquées (IPR/IFRA) de Katibougou.

Durant les deux jours de travaux, les participants ont pris la mesure des défis et opportunités de la biotechnologie agricole moderne, des techniques de reportage sur la biotechnologie, de la manière de s'informer et de communiquer de façon équilibrée sur la biotechnologie agricole. Ils ont également visionné des vidéos sur le coton Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) en Inde et sur la visite des essais de culture de coton Bt au Burkina Faso.

La biotechnologie n’est pas la panacée absolue pour sortir l’agriculture africaine des difficultés qu’elle connaît -sécheresses récurrentes, attaques des déprédateurs des cultures, mauvaises herbes et faible rendement- admettent les scientifiques présents à l'atelier. Mais elle représente une opportunité intéressante que les États africains peuvent examiner pour trouver une solution à leurs contraintes. A condition que les mesures bio-sécuritaires, sanitaires et environnementales soient prises pour minimiser les risques des adoptions. Mieux, les pays africains doivent même s'employer à trouver leurs propres semences biotechnologiques afin de rompre la dépendance de leurs producteurs vis-à-vis des firmes agricoles étrangères.

Cette session a permis aux journalistes d’améliorer leurs connaissances sur la biotechnologie de façon générale et sur la biotechnologie appliquée à l’agriculture. Il s’agit désormais pour eux d’avoir une attitude critique et objective à chaque fois qu’ils seront confrontés à cette question de grande actualité dans l’exercice de leur métier.

M. COULIBALY

Retour Haut