

Currently, 10 students are training for MSc and PhD degrees in the 3 countries. Construction of facilities is underway in Uganda and Kenya.

The first **special courses**, focusing on biosafety/ ecology, biotechnology, practical aspects in the cultivation and handling of GM crops, risk assessment and evaluation, and on ethical, legal and societal aspects, were held in Nairobi, 24-30 September 2006, and in Niamey, Niger, 3-7 November 2006.

Persons interested in participating at the courses planned in 2007 should contact the Training Co-ordinators.

Dr. Thure Hauser,
Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark.
E-mail: tpha@kvl.dk

Prof. Jenesio Kinyamario,
University of Nairobi, Department of Botany,
P.O. Box 30197 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
E-mail: jenesiok@yahoo.co.uk

For further information, visit our website:
www.biosafetrain.dk



“Capacity building for biosafety and ecological impact assessment of transgenic plants in East Africa”
an ENRECA-project financed by DANIDA involving

University of Nairobi
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
Makerere University
University of Dar es Salaam
University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences
University of Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Services





Food safety is a major concern in Africa, and there is an urgent need for tools to increase crop production on this continent. Gene technology may be one of the many tools to use. The lack of capacity to assess the agricultural and ecological impacts of introducing GM crops is one of the obstacles, vividly demonstrated by the GM-maize food aid crisis in Southern Africa.

The BioSafeTrain, an Enhancement of Research Capacity (ENRECA) project, funded by DANIDA, is a collaborative project involving three East African countries and Denmark to address this obstacle.

The project started in December 2004 and is currently in its first phase.

The long-term vision is in to build capacity that can

cope with the challenges of introducing genetically modified crops into the region by developing a platform for training in biosafety impact assessment of transgenic plants. In this period we aim to:

- Improve existing infrastructural capacity by upgrading current biosafety/biotechnology facilities
- Offer M.Sc. and Ph.D. - fellowships on agricultural and environmental impacts of GM plants, through joint African-Danish supervision at local universities and perform relevant research projects locally.
- Develop a training platform structure , a Biosafety

Training Laboratory, where students and other relevant persons from East African countries can supplement their education with extra degrees or receive practical training on GM plant biosafety/ ecological risk assessment.

- Develop a research agenda adapted to local conditions on relevant biosafety topics , and generate new knowledge in order to realize this agenda.
- Develop a Diploma in Biosafety , as part of the continuing education initiatives that exists at certain universities.

- Test and revise suggested standard procedures for GM plant biosafety.

