



## Who We Are

Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (UBBC) is a coalition of different stakeholders ranging from policy makers, scientists, private sector leaders, civil society organisation leaders and government officers in their individual capacities as well as stakeholder agencies both public and private unified for a common cause of advancing the role of biotechnology in improving livelihoods of the people in Uganda.

The consortium is a unique development and was born out of a strong need to form a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-competent organisation that will bring together stakeholders around a common cause of biotech science advancement. It is a mirror reflection of how the science of biotechnology, like ICT is applicable and/or of relevance to different sectors from health, agriculture, environment, trade and industry, to social justice among others.

## Why the Consortium

The Consortium was born out of the need to have a harmonised and multi-stakeholder approach to public engagement, understanding and strategic policy advocacy for the science of biotechnology. The first General Assembly of UBBC was held on 18th April 2011 in Kampala where the leadership, the Executive Committee was elected.

The Executive Committee was charged with responsibility of working closely with the identified host institution—the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) to establish a formal relationship that will see the Consortium nurtured into a fully functional and eminent entity of biotech stakeholders in Uganda as well as to implement Consortium members' aspirations and developing strategic stakeholder engagement documents.

## Goal of UBBC

The overall goal of the Consortium is to act as a unified body of stakeholders to support the safe and sustainable utilisation of biotechnology for national development and socio-economic transformation.

## Objectives of UBBC

1. To promote of stakeholder understanding of and support for establishment of a biosafety regulatory framework and overall application of biotechnology for improvement of livelihoods
2. To ensure timely and informed decision making for passage of the biosafety legislation;
3. To provide linkages within the biotechnology research and development partners in Uganda for the safe and sustainable utilisation of biotechnology
4. To perform any other activities and services that may be incidental to the achievement of the Consortium's aspirations.



## UBBC Secretariat

As proposed by the General Assembly of 18th April, a Memorandum of Understanding between the UBBC and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology was signed on 28th May 2011 and provides for the UNCST to host the Secretariat of the Consortium.

The Consortium Secretariat is therefore housed within the premises of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology on Plot 6 Kimera Road, Ntinda Kampala and is manned by a Consortium Coordinator and an administrative assistant. The Consortium host, the UNCST handles financial and any major administrative matters of the Consortium Secretariat. The Secretariat is the focal point of all Consortium activities and is charged with among others the following:

- ✿ Development and coordination of implementation of the Consortium strategic plan
- ✿ Organizing meetings of the Consortium Executive Committee and General Assembly
- ✿ To engage consortium members and stakeholders in consortium activities and sensitizing them on any developments in biotechnology research, applications and policy
- ✿ Mobilize resources in order to strengthen and sustain the Consortium
- ✿ Coordinate the transformation of the Consortium into a vibrant legal entity capable of addressing stakeholders interests and advancing biotech research, development and applications for national development.

## UBBC Executive Committee

The 1st Executive Committee of the Consortium is chaired by Mr Erostus Nsubuga, an agricultural scientist who is characterized by championing many firsts in Uganda and Africa. He pioneered commercialisation of the biotechnology of tissue culture by establishing and running Uganda's first ever private tissue culture laboratory that is producing high quality banana planting materials. Mr Nsubuga was also the Chairperson of the Presidential Investors Roundtable (PIRT) on Agribusiness.

Other Executive Committee members include Hon. Mutebi-Kityo, the General Secretary of Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE); Dr. Theresa Sengooba, the Regional Coordinator for the Program for Biosafety System (PBS); and Dr. Andrew

Kiggundu, the Head of the National Biotechnology Centre in Uganda, among others. It is composed of a total of 9 members all of whom are eminent Ugandans from private, public and civil society sectors that were elected into office by the Consortium General assembly held on 18th April 2011. This therefore presents the democratic foundation of the Consortium—a strong pillar on which it is built.



## Membership to the Consortium

The Consortium is open to membership of both institutional and individual membership upon payment of both membership and subscription dues as prescribed by the Executive Committee. Currently proposed Individual membership fee is UGX 50,000 and annual individual subscription of UGX 25,000 while institutional membership is UGX 200,000 and annual corporate subscription is UGX 100,000. Membership is only attained on successful application and admission by the Executive Committee, and upon payment of membership and annual subscription. We are currently welcoming new membership to the Consortium. More information on membership and the Consortium can be sought from the Secretariat at the address below.



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