

ASCA7 2024

7th Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety Regulation, and Communication

September 2 – 6, 2024 | Maruay Garden Hotel | Bangkok, Thailand



The potential of agri-biotechnology to contribute to sustainable agriculture depends on R&D and the integration of other factors such as effective communication, science-based national regulatory frameworks, and an adequate understanding of international legal instruments. Strong collaboration among scientists, regulators, policymakers, and lawyers is important so that science and regulation can co-evolve and society can benefit from modern biotechnology while risks are minimized.

The Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety Regulation and Communication (ASCA) is a capacity-building initiative of the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC) and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications Inc. (ISAAA Inc.) to create a platform for Asian scientists and regulators to be competent in the regulations and policies related to biotechnology. This will enable a strong voice for science-based regulations supporting R&D, commercialization, and trade. It also enables more Asian stakeholders to be trained, given the limited resources in developing countries.

Thailand's Department of Agriculture and Biotechnology Alliance Association (BAA) co-hosts the 7th ASCA (ASCA7) in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with ISAAA Inc., MABIC, and BioTrust-ISAAA on September 2-6, 2024.

ASCA was conducted in Malaysia in 2018, in the Philippines in 2019, hosted by ISAAA Inc. virtually in 2020 and 2021, in the Philippines in 2022, and in Bogor, Indonesia in 2023.

The short course is designed to enable participants to better understand the following topics:

- entire value chain related to the research, development, commercialization, and trade of living modified organisms (LMOs) and gene-edited crops/organisms;
- national and international legal instruments related to LMOs and gene editing;
- effective communication and agri-biotechnology innovations, biosafety regulation; bioethical considerations, and stewardship; and
- science diplomacy in international negotiations

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Day 0: Sunday, September 1, 2024

Time	Activity
Whole day	Arrival, Check-in, and Registration of ASCA7 participants Welcome greetings and instructions emailed to registered attendees

Day 1: Monday, September 2, 2024

OPENING SESSION Moderator: Dr. Nipon Iamsupasit Biotechnology Alliance Association, Thailand Rapporteur: Ms. Kristine Grace Tome Program Officer 2, ISAAA Inc.		
9:00	Opening Message	Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan Global Coordinator, BioTrust-ISAAA Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Center
9:05	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs Director-General, Department of Agriculture (DoA), Thailand
9:10	Introduction to the workshop	Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Executive Director, ISAAA Inc.
9:30	Photo Session and Coffee Break	
Session I: Crop Improvement Technologies and Biodiversity Convention Moderator: Mr. Panfilo de Guzman Assistant Scientist, ISAAA Inc. Rapporteur: Ms. Clement Dionglay Project Associate, ISAAA Inc.		
9:50	The Evolution of Technologies in Crop Improvement	Dr. Gabriel O. Romero Executive Director Philippine Seed Industry Association
10:20	Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols	Dr. Karen Hokanson Senior Scientific Program Manager, Agriculture and Food Systems Institute
10:50	Environmental Risk Assessment Based on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Dr. Florida Carino Former Member, Department of Science and Technology Biosafety Committee, Philippines
11:20	Food Safety Assessment Based on Codex Alimentarius	Dr. Chalinee Kongsawat Manager, Biosafety Section, National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Thailand Secretariat, Technical Biosafety Committee, National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
11:50	GM Case Study: Biotech Corn Philippines	Dr. Florida Carino Former Member, Department of Science and Technology Biosafety Committee,

		Philippines
12:20	Lunch	
1:20	Import Application to Thailand	Ms. Jiraratana Thesasilpa Food and Drug Officer - Senior Professional Level, Food Division, Food and Drug Administration
1:50	Discussion	
Session II: Gene Editing and Synthetic Biology Moderator: Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Rapporteur: Ms. Kristine Grace Tome		
2:05	Brazil: Meeting Sustainability and Productivity Challenges with Biotech Trees	Dr. Mike May (online) Vice President for Public Affairs, FuturaGene
2:30	Commercial Applications of Genomics, Gene Editing and Bioinformatics in Japan	Dr. Hideraki Itami Director PTBio, Japan
3:00	Applications of Gene Editing: Agriculture and Beyond	Dr. Gabriel O. Romero Executive Director Philippine Seed Industry Association
3:30	Break	
3:50	New Breeding Techniques/Gene Editing – Regulatory Considerations (Insights and Philippine Perspective)	Ms. Ma. Lorelie U. Agbagala Head Secretariat, National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines and the DOST Biosafety Committee
4:15	Status of the Gene-edited Crops Regulation in Asia and Australasia	Dr. Michael G.K. Jones Director, WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Murdoch University
4:40	Discussion	
5:00	End of Day 1	
6:00	Welcome Dinner	

Day 2: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

7:00	Departure from Maruay Hotel
9:30-11:00	Lopburi Seed Research and Development Center
11:00-12:30	Lunch - Ban Madame Thai Restaurant (Distance from Hotel: 8.1 km)
14:00-15:30	National Corn and Sorghum Research Center
15:30-17:30	Travel back to Maruay Hotel

Day 3: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Session III: Country Updates Moderator: Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan Rapporteur: Mr. Panfilo De Guzman		
9:00	Recap of Days 1 & 2	Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Executive Director, ISAAA Inc.
9:15	Thailand: Status of Agri-biotech R&D (GM and Gene Editing)	Dr. Piyarat Thammakijawat Director, Biotechnology Research and Development Office, Department of Agriculture
9:45	Country Presentations: Current Developments, Challenges, and Future Prospects in Agri-biotech	Selected participants
11:45	Open Discussion	
12:00	Lunch	
Session IV: Driving Inclusivity and Sustainability Through Bioethics and Governance Frameworks Moderator: Dr. Michael Jones Rapporteur: Ms. Clement Dionglay		
1:00	Assuring Safety and Responsible Use of Biotechnology Innovations Through Plant Biotech Stewardship	Dr. Mike May (online) Vice President for Public Affairs, FuturaGene
1:30	Global Trade and Acceptance of Biotech Seeds (GM and Gene-Edited)	Ms. Francine Sayoc Executive Director Asia Pacific Seed Alliance Ltd.
2:00	Bioethical Consideration of Biotechnology	Dr. Mike May (online) Vice President for Public Affairs, FuturaGene
2:30	Synthetic Biology and COP Discussions	Dr. Felicity Keiper Expert in Global Regulatory Affairs in the Seeds and Traits, BASF
3:00	Knowledge Sharing the ISAAA Way	Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Executive Director, ISAAA Inc.
3:30	Discussion	
4:00	End of Day 3	

Day 4: Thursday, September 3, 2024

7:30	Departure from Maruay Hotel
9:30-10:30	Rice Science Center (Kasetsart University - Kampaengsan Campus)
10:40-11:30	Central Laboratory and Greenhouse Complex
11:30-13:00	Lunch - Kanchana Kitchen
14:00-16:00	Air Orchids and Lab
16:00-17:00	Travel back to Maruay Hotel

Day 5: Friday, September 5, 2024

9:00	Recap of Days 3 and 4	Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Executive Director, ISAAA Inc.
9:15	Canada's Regulatory Approach for Gene Editing	Ms. Krista Thomas Vice President of Trade Policy and Seed Innovation, Canada Grains Council
Session V: Biotech Communication and Science Diplomacy Moderator: Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Rapporteur: Mr. Panfilo De Guzman		
9:45	Effective Communication Approaches	Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan Global Coordinator, BioTrust-ISAAA Executive Director, MABIC
10:15	Coffee Break	
10:45	Social Media Campaigns for Science	Ms. Kristine Grace Tome Program Officer 2, ISAAA Inc.
11:15	Petri Dish and Media Culture	Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan Global Coordinator, BioTrust-ISAAA Executive Director, MABIC
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Visual Communication for Biotechnology	Ms. Clement Dionglay Project Associate, ISAAA Inc.
2:15	Q&A	
2:45	Introduction to Science Diplomacy (Importance to Agri-Biotech)	Mr. Muhammad Adeel (online) Career Diplomat and PhD Scholar, Western Australia State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Murdoch University
3:30	Coffee Break	
4:00	General Discussion	
4:30	Closing Ceremonies	Dr. Rhodora Romero-Aldemita Executive Director, ISAAA Inc.