



# **Experiences and Lessons with Biosafety Capacity Building**

**Prepared for COP-MOP VII CEPA Fair,  
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# Presentation Format

- RAEIN-Africa: The organization
- Challenges with implementation of the CPB in southern Africa
- RAEIN-Africa Biosafety capacity building interventions
  - Areas of training
  - Stakeholders targeted
  - Impacts of capacity building

# RAEIN-Africa: The Organization

- Non-governmental organization
- Network
- Operate at different levels in all SADC States
- Regional Office in Pretoria
- RAEIN-Africa National Contact Institutions (NCI) and National Contact Person (NCP)



# What We Do

- Interfacing of Science & Technology and society
- Facilitates knowledge generation and implementation of development solutions
- Builds capacity to enhance partners' skills in inclusive innovation processes
- Builds partnerships and coordinates a regional network



# Thematic Areas

- Food security and livelihoods,
- Climate change and environment and
- Policy and governance in these sectors.



# Challenges with implementation of the CPB in Southern Africa

- Through various RAEIN-Africa supported consultative processes, partners have identified a number of challenges:
  - Inadequate human and infrastructural capacities in key areas required to support regulatory oversight
  - Compartmentalized training leading to lack of shared understanding on key issues across disciplines
  - Inadequate capacity of journalists to communicate highly technical issues to the public
  - Inadequate capacity of scientists to communicate science with other disciplines and the public
  - Inadequate capacity of civil society to engage on highly technical issues
  - Lack of public awareness leading to poor public participation in policy governance

# RAEIN-Africa capacity biosafety building interventions

- RAEIN-Africa recognizes that capacity building for effective implementation of the CPB must be multi-pronged and based on a multi-disciplinary approach targeting:
  - Human resources
  - Institutions (infrastructure, operations etc.) and,
  - Policy development
- We also recognize that effective implementation requires cooperation across a range of disciplines

# Target institutions

- **Regulators**
  - National Competent Authorities,
  - Biosafety Focal Points,
  - National Biosafety Authorities
- **Policy makers**
  - Parliamentarians
  - High level government officials
- **Academic and/or research institutions**
- **National Agricultural Research Systems**
- **Media houses**
- **Government drafting departments**
- **Civil society organizations**

## **As appropriate:**

- Scientists (Biotechnologists, ecologists, Biodiversity specialists,
- Lawyers
- Social scientists
- In general, specialists identified by national authorities as contributing or likely to implementation of NBFs



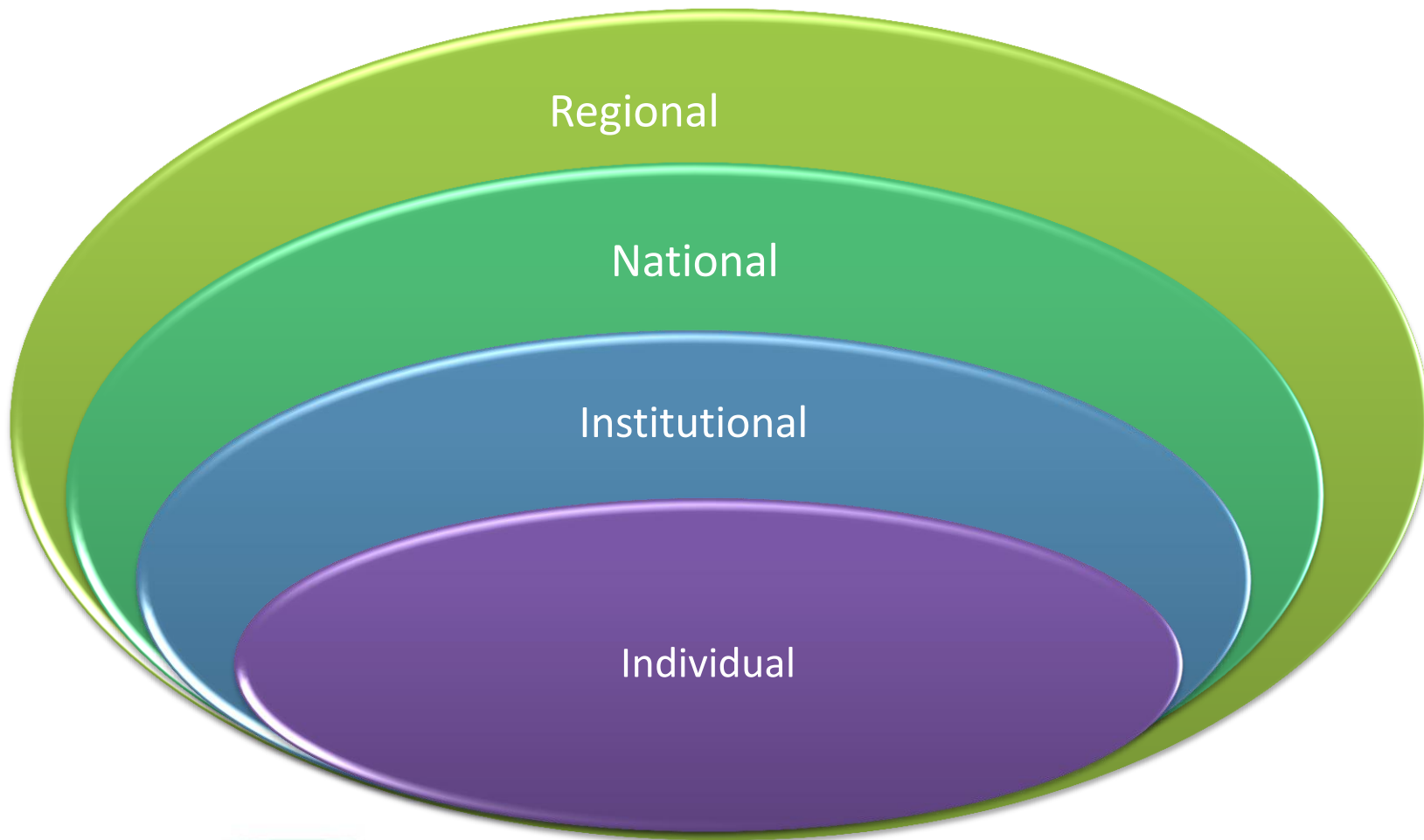
# Capacity Building Areas

- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- LMO detection
- Public awareness and public participation in biosafety decision-making
- Effective communication of science using biotechnology as a case
- Socio-economic consideration in biosafety decision making
- The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Administrative procedures and compliance to obligations under the CPB
- Negotiation skills training in preparation for COP-MOP

# Capacity Building strategies used

- Training workshops
- Training manuals
- Explanatory Guidelines
- Outreach materials
- Networking platforms
  - SANGL
  - Media Platform
  - Academic platform
- Twinning
- Exchange of expertise

# Multi-level impacts of capacity building



# Impacts of capacity building

## Individual

- Enhanced capacity in area of training
- Confidence building
- Enhanced efficiency in implementing tasks
- A network of potential collaboration partners



## Institutional

- Enhanced efficiency in carrying out mandate
- Opportunities for exchange of lessons and experiences with a regional network of institutions



## National

- Enhanced efficiency in implementing policy and legislative requirements
- Opportunities for exchange of lessons and experiences with other countries in the region
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration between stakeholder institutions



## Regional

- A pool of capacitated stakeholders at regional level
- Opportunities for identification of regional priorities and areas of collaboration
- Opportunities for sharing scarce human resources

# Lessons

- Capacity building interventions must be based on participatory needs assessment with national stakeholders
  - Alignment of capacity building areas with national needs
- Multi-pronged approach to capacity building with interventions staggered in line with requirements for the specific stage of NBF implementation
- National authorities must be involved in identification of training beneficiaries

# Capacity Building Partners

- In implementing these capacity building interventions, RAEIN-Africa has partnered with a range of institutions including:
  - National Departments in partner countries
  - African Union Commission
  - SADC Secretariat
  - FIELD, UK
  - UNEP-GEF
  - Biosafety SA
  - CBD Secretariat



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*Thank you*