

Stakeholder Engagement in Genetic Biocontrol Research – The Role of African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium (GenBio-Africa)

Dr. Willy Tonui EBS, Kimberley Terik & Willy Kibet.

African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium

Website: genbioconsortium.africa

Email: genbio@genbioconsortium.africa

What is Genetic Biocontrol

Genetic biocontrol approaches use genetic engineering to supplement biocontrol. There are many possible applications of genetic biocontrol across public health, agriculture and conservation. For example, genetic biocontrol can be used to reduce the reproductive capacity of insects in the wild and raise insects that do not acquire or transmit a disease. In the area of public health, genetic biocontrol approaches can reduce populations of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Purpose of GenBio-Africa

The Consortium is established as an agreement among member organizations committed to contribute and expand Africa's self-determination through research, development, and use of genetic biocontrol approaches.

Vision

The Consortium aims to expand Africa self-determination of the course of research, development, and use of genetic biocontrol approaches for animal, public health and for conservation of wildlife and the environment in Africa.

Member Organizations

- Africa One Health Network (AfOHNet) aohn.net
- Africa Biological Safety Association (AfBSA) afbsa.africa
- The Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) mim.su.se
- Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) nasaonline.org
- Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) pamca.org/en
- GeneConvene Global Collaborative (GeneConvene) geneconvene.org

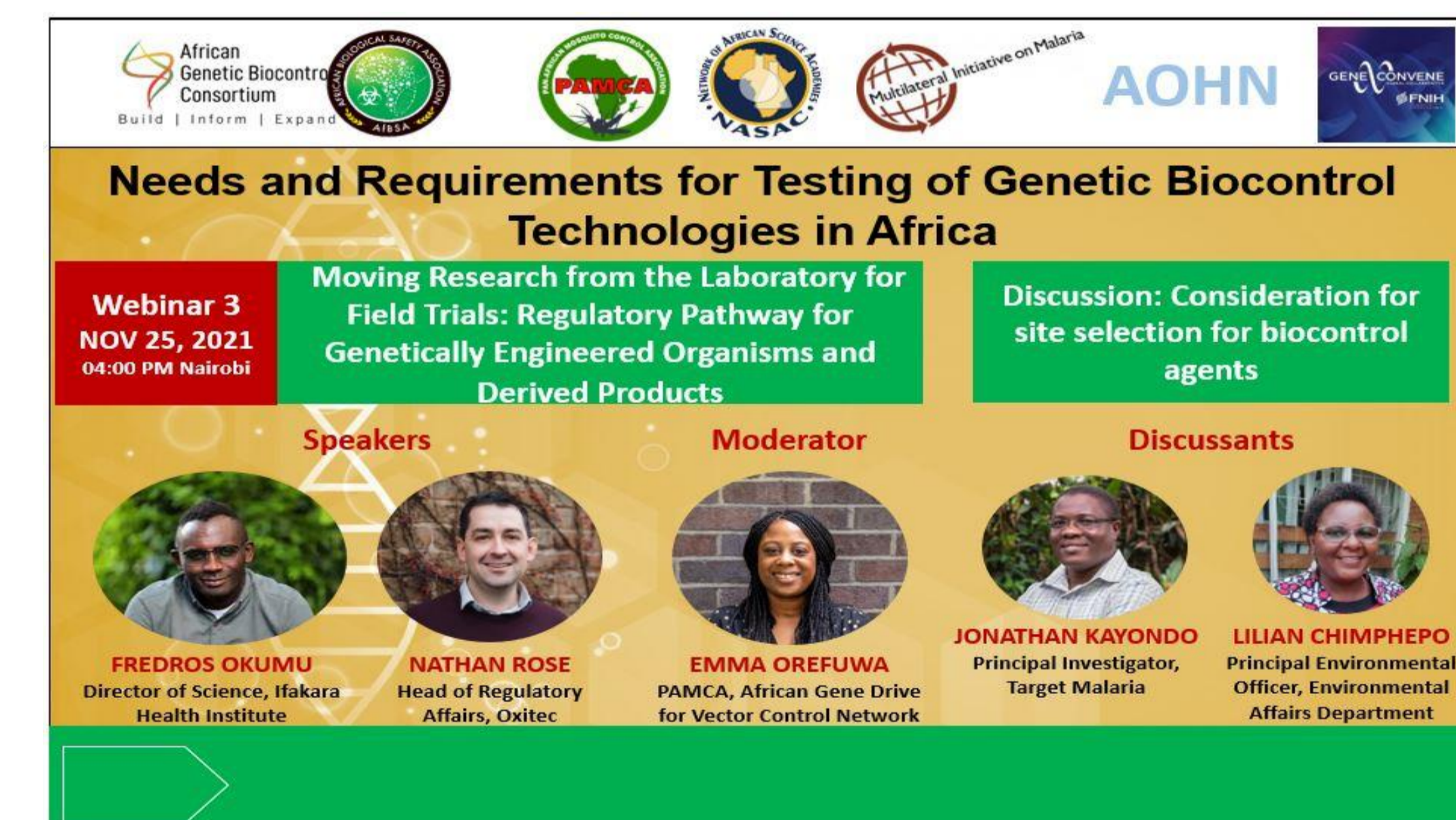


Consortium's Goals

- To provide a platform for interaction among African experts and institutions to enhance opportunities for technical capacity strengthening, knowledge exchange and deliberation about the challenges and opportunities of genetic biocontrol technologies for the public good.
- To provide a platform for disseminating information and addressing misinformation, promoting effective engagement, and increasing transparency to the stakeholders and the publics about genetic biocontrol technologies at national and the African region.
- To strengthen stakeholder mapping and a communication strategy to disseminate information, address misinformation, promote effective engagement, and increase transparency about genetic biocontrol technologies.

Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives of the Consortium

- Awareness Webinars genbioconsortium.africa/events/
- Monthly Newsletters genbioconsortium.africa/monthly-newsletters/
- Weekly Newsletters genbioconsortium.africa/weekly-newsletters/
- Social Media twitter.com/AfricaGeneBio



Value of Stakeholder Engagement

- Effective assessment and identification of risks and benefits of genetic biocontrol research.
- Enhances mutual learning and exchange of information.
- Promotes collaborative efforts in research and decision-making.
- Increases perspectives and opinions that positively inform development of genetic biocontrol research.