

A Tribute to our Colleague and Friend

Dr. Mamadou Brahim Coulibally



Dear friends, family, and colleagues,

We have learnt with profound sadness about the passing of Dr Mamadou B Coulibaly that happened in the morning of October 10, 2023 in Bamako, Mali. He was the Deputy Director of the Entomology Department, Malaria Research and Training Centre, University of Science, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB), Mali.

Mamadou was not only a remarkable malaria expert but a true friend to many of us at the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium. His dedication to the goals and objectives of the Consortium was an inspiration, as evidenced by his involvement toward the establishment of an Institutional Biosafety Forum (IBC-Forum) where he served as an inaugural Vice Chair. He is accredited for developing a concept note towards the formation of this Forum whose objectives is to promote professional development

of IBC members from Institutions that are currently involved in genetic biocontrol technologies (such as gene drive/ editing/synthetic biology projects) in Africa. This project has seen IBCs from countries which include Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Sao Tome, Tanzania and Uganda to review their IBC Guidelines that support Institutional oversight on genetic biocontrol technologies and research in their organizations. I have no doubt that this success would not have been possible without Mamadou's skillful leadership and tireless commitment to improving the oversight of research and to increase research capacity for vector molecular biology and genetic biocontrol in Africa.

We applaud his role in championing the establishment of an African Center of Excellence in Molecular Engineering (ACEME), at the University of

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Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako. No doubt ACEME will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Health Organization (WHO) global technical strategy vision of a “world free of malaria” by providing a setting for African students and scientists to learn and develop advanced molecular biology skills, including those linked to the engineering of transgenic mosquitoes.

Mamadou also played an active role towards the establishment of The Forum for Science Communicators (SCiCOM) that was commissioned by the Consortium during the 1st Global Congress on August 31, 2023. He served as representative of SCiCOM from Mali and a member of the Steering Committee. This Forum aims to provide a platform for interaction among Journalists and Scientists to enhance opportunities for knowledge exchange and deliberation on issues related to genetic biocontrol technologies in Africa.

Mamadou was also passionate about developing networks in Biosafety and Biosecurity in Africa. I fondly recall our first meeting during the WHO/TDR African Biosafety Network Meeting Bamako, Mali, 5 October 2009 where he played a key role in organizing the workshop. He later became an active member in the African Biological Safety Association (AfBSA) and towards the formation of the Malian Association Biosafety Biosecurity (MABB). His recent role in the Consortium was to serve as a member of the Biorisk Committee organizing for Biosafety and Biosecurity Courses during the 2nd Global Congress to be held in Ghana, 2025.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, it was Mamadou’s personal qualities that truly set him apart. His patience and kindness were evident in every interaction. He knew just how to lift our spirits when times were tough and quickly earned the respect and admiration of everyone that he encountered. I fondly recall the many times during workshops and international meetings when he reached out as “a brother” therefore helping overcome challenging scenarios with humor and grace, reminding all of us that even in the most difficult moments, there’s always a reason to smile.

The loss of Mamadou is deeply felt by our entire team and members of the Consortium. He leaves behind a void that will not easily be filled. As we mourn his passing, let us also celebrate his life and the lasting impact he made on each of us.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends throughout the globe. May God give you the peace that you seek.

Rest in peace, dear friend, brother and colleague. You will be forever missed, but never forgotten.

