



3rd Global Genetic Biocontrol Congress

3rd Global Congress on Genetic Biocontrol Technologies,
March 15-18, 2027, Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Theme: *"Advancing responsible genetic biocontrol innovations to improve animal and public health, strengthen vector control, and protect ecosystems".*

Organized by African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium

3rd Congress at a Glance



Willy Tonui, PhD, EBS,

*Founder and Chairman, African
Genetic Biocontrol Consortium*

Genetic biocontrol is an approach for controlling or eliminating specific organisms that threaten public health, food security and biodiversity that uses genetic variants (natural, induced or transgenic) of the target species as the controlling agents to affect the target species in ways that reduce its undesirable impacts. Robust transgenic and genome editing technologies are fueling expanding research and development of genetic platforms and systems for combating pathogen and parasite-transmitting mosquitoes, plants and insects that reduce food security, and invasive species that are destroying biodiversity.

This unique Congress will focus exclusively on the topic of genetic biocontrol and will serve to encourage cooperation, collaboration, communication, and new and exciting science at a time when new technologies such as gene drive and Wolbachia-induced cytoplasmic incompatibility are being developed.

This Congress will bring together researchers investigating genetic systems with potential applications to genetic biocontrol with technology developers and those implementing genetic biocontrol strategies to share knowledge, foster new research, compare lessons-learned and develop best practices.

This Congress will feature discovery research along with technology development and ongoing operational experiences of those moving existing technologies to the field. The Congress will bring those working on insects, plants, fish, mammals, and other organisms together. This is an opportunity to bring researchers, developers, and practitioners together so that future genetic biocontrol activities will take place within a community with shared interests and values.

ABOUT THE AFRICAN GENETIC BIOCONTROL CONSORTIUM

The Africa Genetic Biocontrol Consortium (the Consortium) was established as an agreement among member organizations committed to the mission and goals to contribute to expanding African self-determination of the course of research, development, and use of genetic biocontrol approaches for controlling and eliminating malaria and other vector-borne diseases in Africa.

The Consortium was officially launched on November 30, 2020 by not-for-profit member organizations based in Africa that included the Africa One Health Network (AfOHNet), Africa Biological Safety Association (AfBSA), The Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM), Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) and the GeneConvene Global Collaborative (GeneConvene). The member organizations of the Consortium are regionally represented non-governmental professional or similar organizations representing disciplines such as biomedical research, biotechnology, entomology, vector control, public health, animal sciences, biosafety, ecology, environmental sciences, social sciences, and public engagement who are interested in genetic biocontrol technologies.

The Consortium is guided by a vision that seeks to build an informed local leadership to support decision-making on the utility of genetic biocontrol technologies for public health and requirements for their development in Africa. This will be achieved through a mission that aims to expand African self-determination of the course of research, development, and use of genetic biocontrol approaches for public health. To fulfil this mission the Consortium will 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 public health, which will amplify African influence on their development and provide critical input for decision-making by product developers, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

The approach of the Consortium is to provide the member organizations to conduct activities individually and/or jointly under the Consortium brand. It is expected that the Consortium will use its collective leverage to attract funding for activities and to inform other stakeholders. To achieve the desired impact, the Consortium will adhere to a set of core values in planning and executing its mission. These include teamwork, collaboration, power of negotiation, complementarity and strengths, continual improvement, transparency, and accountability.

ABOUT THE 3rd GLOBAL CONGRESS ON NEW EMERGING GENETIC BIOCONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

The Consortium is delighted to host the 3rd Global Congress on Genetic Biocontrol Technologies in Nairobi, Kenya in March 15 to 18, 2027. The aim of the Congress is to bring together experts from around the world to share learnings across diverse disciplines related to genetic biocontrol technologies in a 4-day event.

This Congress promises to be an engaging and stimulating event. Attendees interested in genetic biocontrol drawn from a broad spectrum of vector biologists, biosafety, and biosecurity, pharmaceutical, biotechnology research, development and clinical organizations are expected to attend. The conference draws national and international attendees from academic, commercial,

research, non-governmental, and governmental sectors. It is a great opportunity to showcase your products to a broad audience of professionals.

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

The Congress offers you exposure to the many delegates of the conference and the opportunity to showcase your products and services to a global pool of customers. The exhibition area has been designed to provide the best possible promotional opportunities for participating companies. The exhibition will provide delegates and exhibitors with excellent opportunities to network and will be placed on the beautiful and spacious foyer of the hotel outside the conference rooms.

Who Should Exhibit?

Anyone who supplies, manufactures, provides services or products used in biomedical research, biosafety and biosecurity, the media fraternity and training institutions should exhibit.

When and Where

The 3rd Global Congress on Genetic Biocontrol Technologies, organized by the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium will be held from March 15-18, 2027, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Exhibition Schedule

The exhibition will be open from 8:00am – 6:00pm daily from March 15-18, 2027

Exhibitors will set up their booths from March 15, 2027.

Exhibitors will be required to remove their displays on March 18, 2027.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The role of this subcommittee will be to determine the theme of the annual conference; develop and release the Call for Proposals; review all submissions; and define the schedule.

Members of the Scientific Programme Committee include:



Charles Mbogo,
*Chair, Scientific Program
Committee*



Etienne Bilgo
*Vice Chair, Scientific
Program Committee*



Joseph Odongo
Member



Thato Mogapi
Member



Charles Quaye
Member



Givemore Munhenga,
Member



SIMON KIPNGENO LANGAT,
OGW, OAP, ACIARB



Moussa Savadogo
Member



Martin Bundi
Member



Agnes Yemisi Asagbra
Member



Jacqueline Kado,
Member



Ama Kudom-Agyemang,
Member



Gloria Ogbaki,
Member



Misheck Mulumba
Member



Sandra Lombe,
Member



Royden Saah, Member



Rajka Fritsch, Member



Jewelne Akorli, Member

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT



**Rosalia Omungo,
Chief Executive Officer,
AGBC**



Raphael Jilani Mwalimu

Senior Manager Science,
Technology, Innovation
and Quality Assurance



**Benard Lesalon Letoluo,
Senior Officer Finance
and Administration**



**Andrew Kipkoech,
Senior Manager -
Digital and Data
Management**



**Kipkorir Evans,
Finance Manager**

3rd GLOBAL CONGRESS PROGRAM

High-Impact Congress Breakfast Sessions

Theme: To provide dynamic morning exchanges and high-impact breakfast sessions that inspire transformative ideas, advance breakthrough genetic biocontrol, and mobilize global action.

Participants: Speakers, moderators, early-career researchers, regulators, and invited stakeholder representatives to participate.

Practical One-Hour Format (7.30 am - 9.00 am)

1. **Day 1: Welcome, orientation, and global networking breakfast-** Introduce the 3rd Congress objectives, participation arrangements, and expected outcomes, followed by structured networking across countries, disciplines, and stakeholder groups. Session Co-Chairs Prof Charles Mbogo and Dr Etienne Bilgo
2. **Day 2: Technical expert roundtables-** Run parallel, facilitated discussions on priority themes and science on genetic and non-genetic biocontrol science, biosafety and risk assessment, regulation and governance, ethics, public engagement, implementation, and capacity strengthening. Session Co-Chairs - Dr Moussa Savadogo and Dr Thato Mogapi
3. **Day 3: Stakeholder and regional consultation:** Organize mixed tables representing researchers, regulators, policymakers, funders, industry, civil society, communities, and regional networks. Ask each table to identify major opportunities, concerns, evidence gaps, and collaboration needs. Session Co-Chairs Dr Jackie Kado and Dr Gloria Ogbaki.
4. **Day 4: Commitments and action-planning forum -** Convert congress discussions into practical next steps. Participants should identify joint initiatives, policy or research priorities, responsible organisations, indicative timelines, and follow-up mechanisms. Session Co-Chairs Dr Misheck Mulumba and Dr Agnes Asagbra.

DAY 1: MONDAY MARCH 15, 2027		
TIME	ACTIVITIES	
7.00 - 9.00 am	REGISTRATION (DAY 1)	
7.30 am - 9.00 am	High-Impact Congress Breakfast Sessions	VENUE: MAIN HALL KILIMANJARO
OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS PLENARY SESSION 1: REIMAGINING AFRICA'S HEALTH FUTURE THROUGH GENETIC BIOCONTROL MODERATORS : PROF CHARLES MBOGO & ETIENNE BILGO		VENUE: MAIN HALL KILIMANJARO
9.00 am- 10.00 am	Welcome Remarks: Rosalia Omungo, Chief Executive Officer, African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium Welcome Remarks: Willy Tonui PhD, Founder and Chairman, African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium Welcome Remarks: Michael Santos PhD, Senior Vice President, Science Partnerships, Foundation for the National Institutes of Health Welcome remarks: Mark Whittaker, Senior Research Manager, Infectious Disease, WellCome Trust Welcome remarks: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary for Science, Research and Innovation, State Department for Science Research and Innovation, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Republic of Kenya. Chief Guest: H.E. Dr. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H. (TBC), Prime Cabinet Secretary & Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs <i>Congress Keynote address:</i> TBC Title: Shaping the Future of Genetic Biocontrol Technologies: Precision Science, Responsible Innovation, and Global Impact The keynote explores how advanced genetic technologies can precisely manage harmful pests and disease vectors. It emphasizes that scientific advancement must be supported by robust safety evaluation, ethical oversight, transparent governance, and meaningful public engagement. It also outlines the potential worldwide benefits of genetic biocontrol for human health, agriculture, biodiversity, and sustainable development, and urges scientists, policymakers, communities, and partners to work together to turn its promise into safe, inclusive, trusted solutions that save lives, improve food security, conserve biodiversity, and support a sustainable future.	
10.00-10.30 am	PHOTO SESSION, HEALTH BREAK	

10.30- 11.00 am	<i>This session will convene senior government, regulatory and institutional leaders from selected African countries to advance coordinated policy action. The objective is to establish a shared understanding among senior officials of disease-control challenges, evidence on emerging vector-control tools and governance issues requiring leadership decisions.</i> Session Keynote: Vector borne diseases, trends, current interventions and emerging biocontrol options – Dr. Lauren Carrington, Vector, Disease Control, Elimination and Eradication unit Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases department, World Health Organization The speaker will provide an overview of the evaluation of vector-release strategies for vector control, including genetically modified mosquitoes, <i>Wolbachia</i>-based population replacement, and sterile insect techniques. She will describe how WHO is examining the available evidence through systematic reviews, benefit–harm assessment, contextual analysis, and guideline development. The speaker will further emphasize that, notwithstanding their technical distinctions, these approaches encounter common challenges related to evidence generation, governance, community engagement, biosafety, monitoring, and implementation, thereby offering opportunities for cross-learning across disease-control disciplines.
11.00- 11.30 am	Q&A
11.30-13:00 pm	Regional leadership roundtable: Regional and country policy and legal readiness (High level ministry and country leaders from African countries). <i>This session will convene senior government, regulatory, and institutional leaders from selected African countries to review policy progress. The roundtable discussions will stress-test their countries’ policy and legal readiness; explore how innovative genetic biocontrol tools can be integrated into national plans, health security priorities, and African Union commitments; identify key policy, legal, and institutional gaps across participating countries; and agree on opportunities for regional cooperation.</i>
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break
PLENARY SESSION 2: GLOBAL ADVANCES IN GENETIC BIOCONTROL APPLICATIONS- REGULATORY READINESS MODERATORS: MOUSSA SAVADOGO & THATO MOGAPI	
14.00- 16.00 pm	<i>This session aims to define clear, proportionate, science-based pathways for contained research, field trials, risk and ethics reviews, cross-border consultation, and post-release monitoring in participating countries.</i> Introductory presentation: Christiane Maia: Evaluation and regulation of <i>Aedes aegypti</i> mosquitoes infected with the <i>Wolbachia</i> bacterium: Anvisa’s (Brazil) Regulatory roundtable 2: Regulatory readiness (Head of agencies- Health, biosafety and environment). <i>During roundtable discussions, participants from health, biosafety and environmental agencies will identify key regulatory laws, guidelines, and gaps across participating countries and agree on opportunities for regional cooperation.</i>
16.00- 16.30 pm	Health Break
16.30-17.30 pm	Q&A, discussions and recommendations.
DAY 1 ENDS	

DAY 2: TUESDAY MARCH 16, 2027

7.30 am - 9.00 am	High-Impact Congress Breakfast Sessions	VENUE: MAIN HALL KILIMANJARO
PLENARY SESSION 4: GLOBAL ADVANCES IN GENETIC BIOCONTROL APPLICATIONS- INSTITUTIONAL READINESS AND RESEARCH CAPACITY MODERATOR: AGNES ASAGBRA		VENUE: MAIN HALL KILIMANJARO
9.00- 10.30 am	<i>This session will convene senior government, regulatory, and institutional leaders from selected African countries to assess research capacity and readiness. It will evaluate whether regulators, biosafety and ethics bodies, laboratories, entomological surveillance systems, modelling, and data analysis have the capacity to approve genetic biocontrol applications and products.</i> Introductory presentation: Vincenzo Di Donato: Strengthening end-to-end genome editing capacity for genetic biocontrol in Africa <i>Institutional roundtable 4: Institutional readiness (Heads of research from key research institutions) will define principles for transparent risk assessment, public participation, and community engagement, and agree on opportunities for regional cooperation.</i>	
10.30 -11.00	Health Break	
11.00- 13.00 pm	<i>Breakout Sessions (Regulatory, Research and Capacity, engagement and communication, financing):</i> <i>Senior government, regulatory, and institutional leaders from selected African countries will work in expert groups to assess policy, regulatory, research, and institutional readiness for genetic biocontrol. They will evaluate the capacity of regulators, biosafety and ethics bodies, laboratories, entomological surveillance systems, modelling, and data analysis to support approval of applications and products across Africa and recommend practical steps to close gaps and strengthen capacity.</i>	
13.00- 14.00 pm	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Plenary negotiation of the leadership communiqué and action matrix	
15.30- 16.00	Health Break	
15:30-17.00	Plenary negotiation of the leadership communiqué and action matrix and next steps	
DAY 2 ENDS		

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2027

7.30 am - 9.00 am	High-Impact Congress Breakfast Sessions	VENUE: MAIN HALL KILIMANJARO
PLENARY SESSION 6: ADVANCES TOWARD DEPLOYMENT OF GENETIC BIOCONTROL TECHNOLOGIES		
MODERATOR: VIBHA AHUJA		
9.00 am- 10.30 am	The plenary session will provide an update on progress made towards the deployment of both genetic and non-genetic biocontrol vectors and their impacts. Andrew Hammond: Beyond proof of concept: achieving deployable genetic control in Africa Christie Linonge Etombi: From readiness to scale: defining pathways for Wolbachia-based dengue control in Africa Perran Ross: Lessons for genetic biocontrol from Wolbachia release programs in mosquitoes in Australia Fredros Okumu: Prospects of An. gambiae-based gene drives in east and southern Africa.	
10.30-11am	HEALTH BREAK	
11.00- 13.00 pm	The plenary session will outline the stepwise decision-making process for genetic biocontrol tools for experimental release and their impacts. Massouroudini Akoudjin: Risk Assessment of the Release of Genetically Modified Male-Biased Mosquitoes (Ac(PMB)1) in a Village in Western Burkina Faso Nikolay Kandul: NextGenSIT: A Regulatory-Optimized Bridge Technology Toward Gene Drives Bernard Bett: Evaluating the potential impact of genetic biocontrol of Aedes mosquitoes on dengue transmission in the Horn of Africa.	
BREAK OUT SESSION: Exploration, laboratory detection and characterization of endosymbionts in natural mosquito populations		
Moderator: Perran Ross		
14.00- 17.00	This session explores mosquito-associated bacteria, fungi, and microsporidia and their potential use in innovative, sustainable malaria vector control. Carine Létitia Traoré: Wickerhamomyces spp. in Anopheles gambiae s.l.: Prevalence, Tissue Distribution and Potential for Innovative Mosquito Biocontrol in Burkina Faso. Aïcha Fatimata SODRE: Attractive sugar bait-mediated dissemination of symbiotic Serratia sp. in Anopheles for biological control of malaria Transmission.	

	Agapitus Kato: Exploring the Mosquito Microbiome for Biological Control: Putative Endosymbionts of <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> and <i>Anopheles arabiensis</i> in Uganda. Phocas Mazimpaka: Prevalence of Microsporidia MB Symbiont in <i>Anopheles</i> Vectors in Rwanda.
13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
BREAK OUT SESSION: Exploration, laboratory detection and characterization of endosymbionts in natural mosquito populations Moderator: Andrew Hammond	
14.00 – 17.00	Wolfgang Richard Mukabana: Using gene drive mosquitoes to eliminate malaria on the western equatorial coast of Central Africa Jackson Champer: Progress in <i>Anopheles stephensi</i> gene drives and modeling Nditange Shigwedha: A Risk-Pathway Framework for Biosafety Preparedness for Gene-Drive Mosquito Technologies in Namibia Jeremy BOUYER: Environmental Monitoring of Genetic Control in the African Region: the example of <i>Aedes albopictus</i> in Reunion Island.
14.00- 18.00 pm	Workshop: Artificial Intelligence and Capacity Strengthening for Genetic Biocontrol Decision-Making
19.00- 21.00	CONGRESS DINNER AND SCICOM AWARD CEREMONY
DAY 3 ENDS	

DAY 4: THURSDAY MARCH 18, 2027

PLENARY 8: AI, Genetic Biocontrol and Science Communication in Africa MODERATOR: JACKIE KADO	
9.00- 10.30 am	Amelie Wamba: Communicating Genetic Biocontrol Technologies in Africa: Building Public Understanding, Trust, and Informed Engagement Fidelia Oluomachi Ivoke: From Vector Genomes to Genetic Biocontrol Decisions: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Next-Generation Surveillance in Africa Milliam Murigi: AI and the Future of Science Communication Is artificial intelligence transforming science communication or disrupting it?

	Odongo Oduor Joseph: Machine Learning Enabled Detection and Quantification of Psychographic Narratives Associated with GMO Myths Gloria Ogbaki: Trust Before Technology: Risk Communication Lessons from Nigeria's Biosafety Experience for Gene Drive Governance.
10.30-11.00 am	HEALTH BREAK
11.00- 13.00 PM	PLENARY SESSION
13.00-14.00 pm	LUNCH BREAK

Workshops

Artificial Intelligence and Capacity Strengthening for Genetic Biocontrol Decision-Making

A four-hour workshop during the 3rd Global Congress on Genetic Biocontrol March 15-18, 2027

Course organizer: Justin Overcash, FNIH

Purpose. African biosafety regulators, risk assessors, developers, and programme managers are already encountering artificial intelligence tools, often without institutional guidance on verification, confidentiality, data sovereignty, or accountability. This practical workshop will build foundational understanding, introduce the GeneConvene Academy, and help participants develop a shared approach to the responsible use of AI in genetic biocontrol decision-making.

Audience. Staff of national and regional biosafety authorities, risk assessors, Institutional Biosafety Committee members, developers, and programme managers involved in genetic biocontrol governance or decision-making.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Explain how generative AI produces outputs, how to better use frontier models for scientific work, and why those outputs require verification.
- Develop and apply a practical verification step to AI-assisted biosafety tasks.
- Identify information that should not be entered into public AI systems.
- Compare potential AI uses in dossier triage, literature search and problem formulation, and community communication.
- Sign up for and utilize the GeneConvene Academy.

Workshop agenda

This four-hour agenda combines concise expert input, practical application, peer exchange, and action planning. The workshop will run from 14.00 to 18.00 hrs.

Four-Hour Workshop Agenda		
Time	Session	Activity and output
14.00–14.15 15 min	Welcome, objectives, and baseline	Introductions, objectives, expectations, and baseline poll.
14.15–15.15 60 min	AI basics and responsible use	Core concepts and confident errors; guided exercise with a simulated or redacted regulatory artifact; error-hunt and debrief.
15.15-15.30 15 min	Spotting AI errors	Output: Hands on practice spotting common AI errors

15.30–15.45 15 min	Break	Refreshments and informal exchange.
15.45–16.30 45 min	AI in biosafety workflows	Four short examples: dossier triage, literature search and problem formulation, and community communication; moderated discussion. Output: Applications, opportunities and risks, and minimum controls.
16.30–17.00 30 min	GeneConvene Academy	Academy introduction, Biosafety Technical Series 7 demonstration, and course review. Output: Know how to use the GeneConvene Academy.
17.00–17.40 40 min	Future thinking	Presentation on the Future of AI and Risk assessment, Groups map how AI could be used to enhance decision making and classify AI support as plausible, premature, or human-led. Output: Insight into future use cases for AI in Biotech Risk Assessment and reflection on current feasibility.
17.40–18.00 20 min	Share-back and close	Group highlights, post-poll, commitments, and next steps. Output: Evaluation and cohort interest.

DELIVERY APPROACH

The workshop will combine short presentations, a guided demonstration, facilitated discussion, small-group work, and individual reflection. Participants will be seated at round tables where support group work, with approximately five to eight people per group.

Facilitation team: Dr Overcash will serve as lead speaker. Additional workflow speakers and table facilitators will be confirmed based on expertise in biosafety regulation, risk assessment, community engagement, and responsible AI use. The lead facilitator will manage time, transitions, debriefs, and the integration of outputs.

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS

- A simulated or fully redacted regulatory artifact for the practical exercise.
- A deliberately flawed AI-generated response for the error-hunt.
- Regulatory decision-mapping templates and markers.
- GeneConvene Academy access instructions.
- A projector, stable internet access, and an offline backup of all demonstrations.
- Pre- and post-workshop poll questions and participant commitment cards.

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

- A one-page AI error identification sheet.
- An individual GeneConvene Academy learning pathway.
- A simplified regulatory decision map from each group, identifying one plausible AI use, one premature use, and one decision that should remain under human judgment.
- A record of participant commitments and institutional questions.
- An invitation to join a follow-on learning cohort.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

A brief pre- and post-workshop poll will measure changes in participants' confidence in explaining AI limitations, verifying outputs, and protecting sensitive information. The facilitation team will also review the quality of group outputs and collect participants' intended practices and follow-up questions.

Within two weeks, the organizers will circulate the workshop materials, consolidated guardrails, anonymized themes from the regulatory maps, links to selected Academy pathways, and details of the follow-on learning cohort.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION MEDIA AWARD FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL SCIENCE STORIES ON GENETIC BIOCONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

Award competition initiated by the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium, supported by the Science Communication Forum (SCICOM)

Introduction

The Science Communication Media Awards is an award aimed at recognizing and encouraging excellence, accuracy, factual and innovative science stories and publications across the media fraternity in raising awareness science matters with a focus on genetic biocontrol technologies (which include gene drive/editing or synthetic biology). The overall purpose of the award is to promote coverage of information on genetic biocontrol technologies in the local, national and international media and to have a positive influence on policymakers, the private sector, the civil society as well as individuals. The Awards will also build and maintain strong relations between scientists and communicators to improve dissemination of scientific findings in a simplified manner thus bridging the gap between science and society. A key expected outcome of the award is an increased media engagement and coverage of science-based stories. The awards seek to inspire media stakeholders to go beyond and produce stories and publications of highest standard that communicates and breaks down the science to make it consumable to the public.

Objectives

- To promote professionalism in media engagement of scientists and build capacity in documentation of stories technologies on genetic biocontrol technologies in Africa. To reward and encourage excellence, innovation and originality in science reporting, implementation that bridge the gap between scientists, science communicators and journalists while at the same time bring together science and society. on genetic biocontrol technologies.
- To provide visibility for science journalism and strengthen the Science Communication Forum (SCICOM) a multi-disciplinary network for professionals who include scientists, researchers, journalists, communicators, policy makers and regulators from industry, government, academic institutions, and the private sector and non- state actors in Africa.

Nomination, Eligibility and Judging

The competition is open to all practicing journalists in the mainstream media. Focus will be on journalists who write or report science stories on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and biotechnology related subjects. The Science Communication Media Awards intend to provide

recognition to those journalists who deliberately and consistently make public awareness of science matters. Stories on genetic biocontrol biotechnologies will be a bonus and their related development issues a priority. The Media Awards will target science communicators from research, universities and related institutions, scientists, mainstream media with specific focus on TV, Print, Online, and Radio.

Only a single article or documentary is eligible. Series will not be accepted for review; however, a single article from a series may be submitted for judging as standalone work.

A committee consisting of two scientists, two editors and two professional science journalists and/or communications experts will determine the winners.

MAIN CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	KEY PARAMAETERS
Create a google form with choices to assist in selection of the categories		
Print/ Newspaper/ Magazines	1. <i>News Stories</i> : features	Does it address key issues in science Longevity in news Angle Quote sources Style Analysis Quality of investigative journalism demonstrated
	2. <i>Photos</i>	
	3. <i>Graphics</i> : Illustrations /Cartoons/animations Also create choices for this	
Television	1. <i>News Stories</i> : features/ documentaries	Does it address key issues in science Longevity in news Angle Quote sources Style Analysis Quality of investigative journalism demonstrated
Radio	Radio Programme: radio shows/features/dram as (authentic and non-sponsored programs	Issues covered Quote sources Style Analysis Angle
	Radio News: features	

Online (Has to be exclusively an online story/article) story not drawn from TV or radio related news	<i>Online Stories:</i> features/ photo stories/ new stories/ blogs	Issues covered Quote sources Style Analysis Angle Perspective / what is the picture? Message Picture quality2 Interactivity – between author / reader
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Guidelines for Application

The individual should be a practicing Journalist / attached to media house.

- Entry must be on science related issues with a bias on emerging biotechnologies
- Individual entries are limited to only two categories per entrant
- Must present original works of the author with publication date.
- Articles must have been published within the period June 1, 2026, and December 28, 2026.
- Deadline for submission January 15, 2027.
- Submissions should not have been previously submitted for similar awards and won.