



Communiqué of the National Roundtable of Experts and Stakeholders on “Addressing the Challenges of Agricultural Biotechnology through Curriculum Development” Hosted by EDULINK-Food Security and Biotechnology in Africa (FSBA) Project, **University of Nigeria**, on Tuesday, 6th December 2016 at Nsukka, Nigeria.

The EDULINK-Food Security and Biotechnology in Africa (FSBA) Project (funded by the EU-ACP), **University of Nigeria, Nsukka** hosted a National Roundtable of Experts and Stakeholders at Nsukka on 6th December 2016. At the end of very extensive deliberations on the status of Agricultural Biotechnology and the role of appropriate curriculum in enhancing the contributions of Agricultural Biotechnology to our National Food Security the following policy brief was agreed:

1. African agriculture output is far below global average, mostly due to poor technological input.
2. The low level of production is likely to worsen with climate change
3. Redistributing the excess yields of America and Europe, as advocated by a school of thought, cannot solve the problem of food inadequacy in Africa.
4. The adoption of agricultural biotechnology and other forms of technology would enhance food output in the continent.
5. The issue should no longer be whether Nigeria and Africa need agricultural biotechnology, but how African countries can safely apply the technology to support food production and development.
6. All hands must be on deck to ensure Africa does not miss out on sustainable benefits of agricultural biotechnology.
7. As the technology of genetic improvement develops, efforts should be made to keep pace with these developments, some of which elicit fewer ethical concerns
8. A lot more needs to be done to promote agricultural biotechnology and address the concerns often raised by farmers and consumers.
9. Efforts should continue to be made to enhance public understanding, opinion and acceptance of the science of genetic improvement.
10. In adopting agricultural biotechnology, it is important to strike the right balance between commercial interests and societal benefits and societal concerns.
11. The adoption of agricultural biotechnology in the continent must be guided by the rules of integrity, transparency and justice.
12. Regulation of agricultural biotechnology is a serious business and should be treated as so.
13. Stakeholders and gatekeepers should be kept abreast of developments in agricultural biotechnologies through the development and adoption of up to date curricular for teaching food security and agricultural biotechnology in Nigerian and African Universities
14. The curriculum developed by EDULINK-FSBA project for teaching M.Sc in **Food Security and Biotechnology** is robust and should be given extensive publicity and be adopted also for teaching diploma, certificate / non-certificate programmes for appropriate stakeholders in African Agriculture.
15. Basic information on biotechnology should be introduced at school certificate level to increase knowledge base of the population and remove some of the unfounded fears associated with biotechnology in the general population.