



## Exploring Gap analysis To Promote Biosafety And Biosecurity-Our Experience At The College Of Veterinary Medicine (COLVET), Federal University Of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Nigeria

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### INTRODUCTION:

This work builds on the previous report of our gap analysis findings presented at the 2021 ABSA conference. We embarked on a number of activities including developing specific Biorisk Management (BRM) policies, conduct of an institutional sensitization training, and the planning of an institutional waste management program. We highlight some challenges encountered and present some of the measures we identified and adapted to our resource-limited environment.

#### 1. Institutional BRM awareness training:

- *May 2021: Conducted a 2-day BRM awareness workshop for 21 persons.*
- *July 2021: Conducted 1-day seminar on Good Laboratory Work Practices (GLWP) for the 18 attendants.*

#### 2. Support for BRM policy formulation & Communication:

- *Leveraged insights from an advanced BRM workshop to support our top leadership to develop general BRM policies as well as program specific BRM policy drafts to guide the institution.*
- *We printed biohazardous and guidance labels and signages which we placed at key locations within the college facilities.*

#### 3. Initiating an Institutional Biowaste Management Program:

- *Supported management to develop policy for waste management.*
- *Drafted protocols for waste management, purchased waste bin and bag materials.*
- *Coordinated with waste cleaners and incinerator operators.*



### Conclusion:

Building an institutional BRM is a long process that requires leadership buy-in, cooperation from several stakeholders, dedication of resources, planning and careful coordination. Like many institutions, we faced resource constraints, difficulty in cooperation, and significant setbacks from an ongoing industrial strike action. Despite these challenges, with technical support from Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) USA, we secured top management buy-in, established an institutional BRM committee - which is the first and only committee of its kind at our university. We also began reforming the colleges' biowaste management program to meet biosafety best practices. We hope that this effort will serve as an excellent resource and training centre for the rest of the university in promoting biosafety and biosecurity best practices.

### Next Steps:

- *Develop other biosafety and biosecurity programs and expand training program.*
- *Identify funding sources.*