

**SANBio/BioFISA WORKSHOPS ON DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR IPR, IK  
AND BENEFIT SHARING & TRAINING ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 17-24 July  
2011 LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA**

**Background**

One of the key activities of SANBio is to build capacity in IP management, technology transfer and commercialization. Research has to find application in order to address the challenges faced by any society. Any research projects or programmes undertaken under the umbrella of SANBio should directly play a role in addressing the challenges facing the SANBio region and Africa as a whole. Intellectual property rights are fundamental in the drive to ensure the efficient and effective application of research.

The fundamental cultural, intellectual, and commercial enterprises of any nation increasingly intersect with intellectual property rights. This is especially for life sciences, and specifically health care and agriculture. Intellectual property management dramatically affects the pace of innovation, dissemination of knowledge, delivery of new technologies and products. Therefore, systems for managing IP and biological resources in the context of a research network such as SANBio are essential for success.

Commercialization starts with proper IPR management leading to product development. IPR and product development are dynamic processes that require consistent identification, definition, securing (i.e. patenting) and protection. Without the four activities, commercialization is not sustainable.

All SANBio member states have different IPR regulatory and policy frameworks. IPR management, technology transfer and commercialization are not well developed entities in Southern Africa compared to the developed world. The research community is not adequately empowered to deal with IPR and product development issues.

Training in technology transfer, particularly innovative product development strategies will increase the likelihood of partnerships between SANBio and the private sector. Usually the private sector has elaborate IPR and commercialization strategies in place. Increasing IPR, technology transfer and commercialization skills, among researchers, will help stimulate participation of the private sector in SANBio projects/programmes.

The following topics are among others that will be discussed:

- Discussions on the Draft IPR, IK and Benefit Sharing Guidelines developed by the SANBio Working Group on Regional IPR
- Relationship between IP and technology transfer
- Relationship between research and product development
- Challenges of technology transfer
- Case studies of successful technology transfers in the region

- What are the most important constraints to technology transfer and what needs to be done to reduce or remove them?
- What laws or regulations need to be changed or put in place at national level to strengthen the contribution of technology transfer in development?
- Technology transfer in the context of promoting research networks
- Institutions supporting research in STI-→product value chain in Southern Africa (TIA, SAIS, NTBC, etc)