

Managing Microbes an E-Learning Experience

CABI's easy e-learning solution to working with microorganisms

David Smith

CABI Europe UK, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey, UK. Email: d.smith@cabi.org

KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE

Background: Training is an expensive business if you are to travel to centres of learning around the world. Time out of the laboratory, re-organising work to fit course dates and securing travel documents can cause significant problems. Is the answer E-learning? Long distance learning techniques are advancing and are being utilised in many fields. Managing Microbes is a set of modules that provides a learning experience in the isolation, characterisation, safe handling and storage of microorganisms. It enables participants to implement best practice and heightens awareness of the legal implications and aids compliance in the convenience of your own work place.





The course Has 6 modules

- **1. Culture collections**
- 2. Characterization and use of micro-organisms
- 3. Isolation and growth of micro-organisms
- 4. Preserving microorganisms
- 5. Safe handling and distributing microorganisms

Objectives: In the field of microbiology there are many sources of training and information. The objective of *Managing* Microbes is to provide something more than raw information by delivering a learning experience. It prepares people for microbiology in the laboratory, an individual would be able to: handle micro-organisms safely and effectively; grow, store and use microorganisms proficiently; understand the legislative environment; go onto further specific training with a good practical grounding and understanding; they would be better prepared for research.

Target Audience

Course coverage:

 Understand different aspects of culture collections and their quality management system

- Why retain Microorganisms
- Roles of Culture Collections
- Types of Culture Collections
- Issues Affecting Collections

 Culture Collection Accession Policy and Criteria

- Culture Collection Quality Management Managing a Small Working Collection
- •Managing CABI's public service collection

6. Legislative environment and best practices.

It provides:

An e-Library providing a vast array of information Interactive screens and self assessment as you go

Participants

Learn at their own pace, at their convenience at home or in the office.

Improve their understanding of isolating, storing and preserving different microorganisms Apply their knowledge practically on a daily basis, which builds retention and ensures consistent development over the course of their work. Access an extensive collection of literature and live weblinks and online documents from which to build their own reference library.

Improve the quality of their research and their ability to produce and maintain high quality strains.

Share their progress with colleagues and build their confidence as they reflect on their knowledge development

Receive a CABI certificate on completion of the course to add to their professional portfolio.

Anybody working with the growth, storage, study and use of microorganisms Lab Technicians, Lab Managers **Culture collection managers Students studying micro-biology**

DECD Best Practice Guidelines for Biological Resource Centres OECD

Implementing best practice i.e. **OECD BRC Best Practice for Biological Resource Centres**



The ideal tool to reduce capacity building costs in global regional and national networks

Benefits:

It will reduce the cost of capacity building; it will not replace the necessary hands on experience in wet microbiology but will provide a solid understanding of the need for best practice, an understanding of the organisms and the safety and legal implications of working with them. Is this the way forward?