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The workshop which lasted for two-days began with an opening ceremony which featured a keynote presentation from the representatives of the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, which is the supervising Ministry for NABDA, Abayomi Oguntunde. In his keynote address, he commended NABDA for the successful organization of the conference. He observed that Nigeria is a member state of UNESCO and is a signatory to the 2005 UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights which affirms “that ethical issues raised by rapid advances in the sciences and its technological advancement should be examined with due respect to the human dignity and universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms” (UNESCO 2005). He noted that one obligation of this membership is the establishment of a National Bioethics Committee and expressed the Federal government’s desire to accomplish this. He submitted that a National Bioethics Framework and National Policy guidelines are key prerequisites for establishing such a committee and therefore challenged the conference to take up the mandate. Six thematic areas of the conference, to wit; agricultural ethics, educational ethics, environmental ethics, defense and security ethics, health ethics and societal ethics, were identified as challenging areas that demand urgent attention in the country. He challenged the conference to interrogate these themes thoroughly and help develop appropriate frameworks and policy guidelines. To adequately dissect these areas, Technical Working Groups were created and headed by chairpersons. The different working groups went into syndicate sessions and later presented their formulations and recommendations to the plenary session.

AGRICULTURAL ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

This Technical Working Group, Chaired by Francis Chukwuemeka Ezeonu of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, observed that ethical concerns related to food and agriculture are essentially twofold; these were, the group said, the production, and distribution of sufficient foods to ensure access to safe and adequate food to all; and to promote policies and measures that ensure ecological sustainability of food production (including animals and fisheries) and biodiversity sustainability. The Group identified several issues in the practice of agriculture in Nigeria that require ethical considerations. Among these are the issues of land use and

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9 Prinswill GW, Jaeco AS, Malomo A, Eason EC, Lawal AA, Adedokun O, et al. Content development footprints for the establishment of a National Bioethics Committee: lessons from Nigeria. Glob Bioeth. 2021;32(1):89-99.

guideline for the National Bioethics Committee, as well as serve