



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### ASIA SUBREGIONAL TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

New Delhi, 21-25 November 2011

#### ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has made a number of decisions calling for capacity-building to assist in the implementation of the requirements for documentation and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) under the Protocol (for example, paragraphs 9 and 12 of decision BS-III/10, paragraph 3 of decision BS-IV/9 and paragraph 1(c) of decision BS-V/9).

2. Following the financial contribution from the Government of Japan and the offer by the Government of India to host the workshop, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing the Asia Subregional Training-of-Trainers Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in New Delhi from 21 to 25 November 2011. The workshop will bring together approximately 25 participants, including customs officials and regulators nominated by their Governments, as well as resource persons familiar with existing documentation systems and scientific methods for sampling and detecting LMOs.

3. The main objective of the workshop is to introduce customs officers and other border-control personnel to the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding the identification and documentation of LMOs and to techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of these requirements. It also aims at facilitating the exchange of information and national experiences on the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements under the Protocol.

#### ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

4. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of India at 9 a.m. on Monday, 21 November 2011. A representative of the Executive Secretary will also make opening remarks.

#### ITEM 2. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

5. The Secretariat will give an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outcomes of the workshop. The workshop will include presentations by resource persons and local experts, plenary sessions for sharing of national experiences, small group discussions and interactive hands-on training sessions to introduce relevant tools and methods for identification and documentation of LMOs.

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6. The provisional agenda UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-AS/1/1 will be before the workshop for adoption. The proposed programme of work for the workshop is provided in annex I below.

7. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex II below. Additional documents, including presentations by resource persons and country case-studies, may be made available prior to or during the workshop. The Secretariat has also created an online Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials – [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/customs\\_art18.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/customs_art18.shtml) – where additional information is available.

8. The workshop will be conducted in English.

### **ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROTOCOL AND ITS ELEMENTS RELATING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

9. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety aims to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking into account risks to human health. It includes a number of provisions to achieve this objective. Article 18 of the Protocol, for example, requires Parties to take necessary measures to ensure that LMOs that are subject to intentional transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety. In this regard, it establishes requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of different categories of LMOs. These requirements have been further elaborated upon in a number of decisions adopted by the Parties to the Protocol. Under this item, the Secretariat will introduce the Protocol and outline its elements and the decisions from the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol related to identification and documentation requirements and describe how to find more information through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

### **ITEM 4. THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER-CONTROL OFFICIALS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROTOCOL**

10. Under this item, the Secretariat will provide an overview of the different categories of LMOs and the different types of transboundary movements of LMOs that are covered by the Protocol and describe how LMOs might arrive at a country's borders, in what forms, by what methods of transportation and for what purposes. The role that customs and other border-control officers can play in implementing the Protocol, for example in enforcing implementation of the obligations related to the documentation requirements for different categories of LMOs and in detecting and preventing illegal and unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs, will be highlighted.

### **ITEM 5. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

11. Under this item, participants will be invited to make short presentations about their experiences in dealing with transboundary movements of living modified organisms, including experience with the identification and documentation of LMOs, as well as other related experiences, such as enforcement of phytosanitary measures.

### **ITEM 6. DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING SHIPMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS: CASE-STUDIES ON EXISTING DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS**

12. There are different types of commercial documentation or other documentation required by domestic regulatory and/or administrative frameworks currently in existence that are being used or could be used as documentation accompanying living modified organisms to fulfil the identification requirements of Article 18 of the Protocol. These include commercial invoices, waybills, bills of lading, phytosanitary certificates and others. This session will include presentations and case-studies on

experience gained with the use of those existing types of documentation and how information on LMOs might be incorporated into them.

## **ITEM 7. SAMPLING, DETECTING AND IDENTIFYING LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

### ***7.1. Introduction and overview***

13. The process of sampling a shipment and detecting and identifying LMOs is important in verifying the completeness and accuracy of the documentation accompanying a shipment. Results from sampling and detection may show that the documentation accompanying a shipment accurately describes the content of the shipment, misrepresents the LMOs contained in a shipment or does not indicate that the shipment contains any LMOs when these have, in fact, been detected. As part of their inspection work, customs and border-control officers need to be familiar with basic sampling and detection techniques in order to be able to take samples from shipments and/or be involved in testing and analysing samples to detect whether they contain LMOs and, if so, what types. In this session, resource persons will provide an introduction on the science of LMOs as it relates to sampling and detection.

### ***7.2. Sampling methodology***

14. Under this item, a resource person will present an introduction to sampling methods and the preparation of samples for the detection of LMOs.

### ***7.3. Detection and identification of living modified organisms***

15. Under this item, a resource person will provide an introduction to different methods for detecting and identifying LMOs, including DNA-based methods (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods, DNA microarray) and protein-based methods (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay – ELISA – and lateral flow strip tests), and will describe their relative strengths and limitations.

16. A resource person will also give a presentation on a database developed by CropLife International that compiles methods for detecting LMOs.

### ***7.4. Laboratory exercises***

17. There are a number of different tests that can be used to determine the genetic contents of a shipment of seed or grain, some of which may be directly applied by customs officers. This session of the workshop will take place in the laboratories of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).

18. Resource persons will lead the participants through practical, hands-on exercises with different detection and testing techniques, including dip tests, ELISA and polymerase chain reaction and the steps of sample preparation, DNA isolation and extraction and analysis of LMOs. The purpose will be to provide the participants with an appreciation of the application of these techniques, to highlight the different considerations behind the various tests and to demonstrate the importance of good sampling practices to ensuring the validity of the test results.

### ***7.5. Interpreting the results from detection and identification***

19. Under this item, participants will review the outcomes of the laboratory exercises and examine how to report laboratory results to other authorities. There will also be a demonstration of how to find relevant information in the Biosafety Clearing-House.

## **ITEM 8. FIELD STUDY VISIT**

20. This item will include visits to:

(a) The Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage Depot, where samples are received and documented before being sent to the laboratory;

- (b) The Plant Quarantine Facility, where samples are received, tested and reports prepared; and
- (c) The Phytotron Facility at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

**ITEM 9. EXPERIENCES FROM THE PARTNERS IN THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE**

21. The Green Customs Initiative (GCI) is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to detect and prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. These include ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living modified organisms. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a partner in the Initiative. In this session, GCI partners will present their activities and share their experiences, highlighting and linking the important role of customs in the implementation of numerous multilateral agreements, not just the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

**ITEM 10. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS FOR CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

22. This session will explore how the participants in the workshop can continue to collaborate and share their experiences with the identification and documentation of LMOs once they return to their countries. Participants will prepare national action plans to detail how they would apply and transmit to others what they have learned during the workshop once they return home. Participants will also work in small groups to brainstorm activities to be undertaken at regional and subregional levels to facilitate continued collaboration and sharing of experiences, information and expertise concerning the identification and documentation of LMOs.

**ITEM 11. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

23. Under this item, participants will consider the conclusions and complete an evaluation of the workshop.

**ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

24. The workshop is expected to end at 5 p.m. on Friday, 25 November 2011.

*Annex I*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE WORKSHOP**

Date and time	Agenda item
<b><i>Monday, 21 November 2011</i></b>	
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	1. Opening of the workshop.
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	2. Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3. Introduction to the Protocol and its elements relating to the identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	4. The role of customs and border-control officials in implementing the Protocol.
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	5. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms
<b><i>Tuesday, 22 November 2011</i></b>	
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	6. Documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms: case-studies on existing documentation systems.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	6. <i>(continued)</i>
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	7. Sampling, detecting and identifying living modified organisms: 7.1. Introduction and overview; 7.2. Sampling methodology; 7.3. Detection and identification of living modified organisms.
3.45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	7. <i>(continued)</i>

Date and time	Agenda item
<b><i>Wednesday, 23 November 2011</i></b>	
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	7.4. Laboratory exercises.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.	8. Field study visit.
<b><i>Thursday, 24 November 2011</i></b>	
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	7.4. Laboratory exercises ( <i>continued</i> ).
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.	8. Field study visit ( <i>continued</i> ).
<b><i>Friday, 25 November 2011</i></b>	
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	7.5. Interpreting the results from detection and identification. 9. Experiences from Partners in the Green Customs Initiative.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	10. The way forward: next steps for continued collaboration and exchange of information.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
2 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	11. Consideration of the conclusions of the workshop.
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
3.30 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	11. ( <i>continued</i> )
4.45 p.m. – 5 p.m.	12. Closure of the workshop.

*Annex II*

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-AS/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-AS/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

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<sup>1</sup> More documents may be made available as provided by resource persons prior to or during the workshop.