



Risk Assessment and Risk Management (Articles 15 and 16)

Background

The Biosafety Protocol requires Parties to make decisions on import of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment in accordance with scientifically sound risk assessments. These assessments aim at identifying and evaluating the potential adverse effects of LMOs. The Protocol sets out principles and methodologies on how to conduct a risk assessment. The Protocol also requires Parties to adopt measures and strategies for preventing adverse effects and for managing and controlling risks identified by risk assessments.

Some facts:

- More than 1580 summaries of risk assessments carried out to evaluate the potential adverse effects of LMOs on biodiversity and human health have been posted in the BCH.

What is being done?

A number of measures have been taken to improve the technical and scientific knowledge of biosafety. The Secretariat recently held four regional workshops on capacity-building and exchange of experiences on risk assessment risk management of LMOs for Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. The Secretariat has also expanded the compilation of available guidance documents on risk assessment and risk management contained in the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC) of the BCH.

What is expected at COP-MOP 4?

The meeting will consider the need for further guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management, and the appropriate modalities for development of any such guidance. It will consider modalities for cooperation in identifying LMOs that may have to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and taking appropriate measures regarding the treatment of such LMOs or specific traits (Article 16, paragraph 5). Further measures for strengthening the capacity of Parties to implement the risk assessment and risk management provisions of the Protocol will also be considered.

For more Information:

COP-MOP 4 website: <http://www.cbd.int/mop4>

Protocol website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety>

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>.

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/faqs.asp>

Media and Outreach: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/media.shtml>

